

Tuesday May 14 1996

Abkhaz D 0.50	Albania L 2.20	Andorra FF 10	Armenia AS 20	Azerbaijan AZ 20	Bahrain BF 20	Bulgaria B 1.70	Canada CA 1.20	Czech Republic KC45	Denmark DK 1.00	Dubai D 0.50	Egypt E 0.50	France F 1.00	Germany DM 3.50	Greece G 3.50	Hong Kong HK 5.25	Hungary F 3.00	Iceland IS 1.00	India IN 5.00	Israel IL 1.00	Italy I 1.00	Japan Y 1.00	Korea KR 1.00	Latvia LV 1.00	Lithuania LT 1.00	Luxembourg LF 5.50	Malaysia M 1.00	Malta ML 0.50	Mexico MX 1.00	Netherlands D 4.00	Norway NK 1.50	Oman O 1.00	Pakistan P 1.00	Poland Z 5.00	Portugal P 2.00	Qatar QR 8.50	Romania RS 2.00	Russia R 1.00	Saudi Arabia R 1.00	Slovakia SK 5.00	Slovenia SL 2.00	Spain P 2.00	Sweden SE 1.00	Switzerland SF 3.00	Taiwan T 1.00	Turkey T 1.00	USA US 2.00	UK GB 1.00	Zimbabwe Z 2.00
---------------	----------------	---------------	---------------	------------------	---------------	-----------------	----------------	---------------------	-----------------	--------------	--------------	---------------	-----------------	---------------	-------------------	----------------	-----------------	---------------	----------------	--------------	--------------	---------------	----------------	-------------------	--------------------	-----------------	---------------	----------------	--------------------	----------------	-------------	-----------------	---------------	-----------------	---------------	-----------------	---------------	---------------------	------------------	------------------	--------------	----------------	---------------------	---------------	---------------	-------------	------------	-----------------

# The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,552

## Kids

- Sex, drugs, bullying, home life
- The truth about 11 to 15-year-olds
- Exclusive ICM poll of teenagers

G2 with European weather • Plus: Is it really a man's world? G2 pages 12/13

### Education

## New priorities in post-apartheid South Africa

G2 pages 10/11

## Falkland veteran flees from Argentine ambush

Sarah Boseley

**A** FORMER British paratrooper has fled from Argentina in fear of his life after being cornered by a bayonet mob of Falklands veterans and branded a war criminal on television.

Ken Lukowiak, whose writing career was launched with a harrowing and highly praised account of the war called *A Soldier's Song*, had gone for the Guardian to Buenos Aires to talk to the soldiers he had faced in battle. Through an intermediary, he arranged to meet two veterans of Goose Green in a restaurant last Thursday evening.

He walked into an ambush. "The first question I was asked was, 'How do you sleep at night?' As I'm asking, 'What do you mean?', lots of lights turned on. There was a television crew heading my way with about 30 people. Then I'm completely surrounded at the table with cameras and lights on me.

"They are screaming at me from all directions that I'm a murderer and I murdered Argentinian soldiers. Mothers of boys who died on the Belgrano are crying and shouting that I'm writing in the blood of their sons. I thought they were going to lynch me.

"I was very, very frightened. I remember the hate and anger on their faces."

He tried to answer the charges, but could not get a hearing, although he spoke to the television crew once the protesters had gone.

Many of the protesters were waving copies of a passage from Mr Lukowiak's book which described his encounter with an Argentinian soldier on Wireless Ridge, an hour or two after ceasefire was declared. "I walked up to a trench and crouched down inside on the far side away from me was an Argentinian soldier holding a rifle. To me, he was a pop-up target. It was my instinct and my training. I put about half a magazine into him and I did it very calmly. I believe, hand on heart, if I had not done that I would not be here talking to you now," he said yesterday.

There was no way he said, that the enemy soldier could have known about the ceasefire.

The incident was shown on the Cronica television news channel that night and the next morning. In the country's main national news-



Ken Lukowiak during his visit to the Falklands, and (below) when he was a paratrooper



**Crouched in the trench was a figure in grey. I saw him. He saw me. He held a rifle. I moved the first finger of my right hand and bullets left the end of my machinegun. They hit the figure in grey. They impacted into his chest and threw him back against the side of the trench. He said to the ground. His soul left him.**  
Ken Lukowiak, *A Soldier's Song*

MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: JEZ COLLISON

paper, Clarion, the Federation of War Veterans of the Argentinian Republic, who appear to have organised the protest, called on Sunday for the general prosecutor, Angel Agüero Irujo, to charge Mr Lukowiak with war crimes.

But Mr Lukowiak had already left the country. He left his hotel immediately, stayed with a friend overnight, and caught a plane home. The friend who gave him sanctuary, who would not be named, said: "If he had left two hours

later, he wouldn't have been allowed to get on the plane."

The translator at the meeting, Dalila Herbst, said she was afraid for his safety and her own. "It was the worst thing that ever happened in my life."

She wanted to apologise to Mr Lukowiak for what had happened, she said, which was not so much to do with the war as with the way the boy veterans in Argentina had been neglected when they came home. "Nobody took care of them. Many committed suicide and they keep killing themselves."

Julia Solanas Pacheco, an Argentinian author who has written about the Falklands and worked with the veterans, arranged the restaurant meeting. She said she regretted what had happened.

A Foreign Office spokesman said that if they were notified of the details, they might take the matter up with the Argentinian authorities, although they were not aware that the Argentinian government was involved in any way.

# Gas price cut spurs new panic

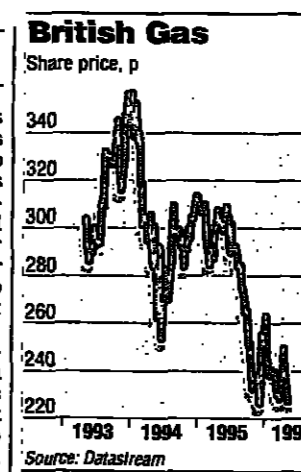
Simon Beavis and Nicholas Bannister

**T**HE privatised gas industry was thrown into renewed chaos yesterday as British Gas warned that plans from its regulator to reduce bills by £30 a year would result in 10,000 job losses, threaten safety and cut payouts to shareholders.

Amid some of the most vitriolic exchanges between a privatised company and its regulator, British Gas made it clear that it was prepared to risk a third Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) inquiry in five years to get the proposals watered down.

The row was sparked by plans from Clare Spottiswoode, director general of Ofgas, to impose tough price controls on British Gas's pipeline and transportation business, Transco.

The price cuts, far more stringent than the City had expected, led to £1.3 billion being wiped off the company's market value within hours of yesterday's announcement — equivalent to 13 per cent of its worth. Analysts predicted that British Gas could eventually be forced to halve the dividend payout to its 1.7 million small shareholders — the so-called Sids — and big institutions.



If the MMC is called in, it could result in a six-month investigation which would almost certainly jeopardise the Government's plans to introduce full competition into the domestic gas market — a centerpiece of its plans for the privatised utilities — from April 1998.

Presenting the plans, Ms Spottiswoode said that savings for domestic customers could rise to £50 a year over the five years of the new regulatory regime.

She is proposing to cut Transco's prices by between 20 and 28 per cent next year and to keep them pegged at 5 per cent below inflation in the following four years.

British Gas immediately dismissed the proposals as "one of the biggest smash-and-grab raids ever". It said they were short-sighted and would ultimately hurt consumers by putting at risk its statutory duty to transport gas "safely and efficiently".

The company, which has

been involved in a series of pitched battles with watchdogs since privatisation 10 years ago, has axed 23,000 jobs in the last three years.

Yesterday deputy chairman Philip Rogerson said the only way to meet the price caps would be to cut Transco's 20,000 payroll in half. He said they would cut revenues by up to £850 million a year — more than the company had earned in profits in each of the last two years.

"These draconian proposals will impose huge strains on the fabric of the UK gas industry at a time of great change," he added. "They are ill-conceived and have to be resisted."

As part of the preparations for competition, British Gas is splitting itself in two, with Transco being potentially the most lucrative new business through its ownership of the country's entire gas network.

The other new company, British Gas Energy, which will supply homes and indus-

try, will be burdened by long-term gas contracts signed before the company lost its domestic monopoly and before the onset of competition led to a collapse in prices. This company faces a review of prices by Ofgas within the next fortnight.

But an uncompromising Ms Spottiswoode rejected British Gas's dire warnings over job cuts and safety and said shareholders would receive generous although slightly smaller returns if the proposals went through. She accused the company of being "emotional".

She said the company could face a nasty shock if it forced the MMC to intervene, arguing that the commission could be even tougher. "The intellectual argument [for the controls] is so strong that I cannot believe the MMC would not agree with us."

**Black day for Sid and Notebook, page 1; Leader comment, page 8**

## OJ survives 10-minute trial by television

Interview turns to farce as Neil Diamond takes centre stage

Stuart Jeffries

**O**J Simpson is not so much skimming the cream of British life as scraping the bottom of the barrel during his stay in London. On Sunday he dined with the titan of British cinema Michael Winner and the kiss-and-tell king Max Clifford.

Last night, he spent the evening with Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. What next? Meeting British television hopefuls followed by a

retrospective of Carry On movies?

To be fair, his interview with the erstwhile king and queen of what Polly Toynbee called the "stuporisation" of daytime TV was a more biting affair than one might have expected. From Richard's opening gambit, "Why do you think that so many people found it hard to believe that you were innocent?" to Judy's "So Nicole was the victim of a drugs murder?" the nervous pair seemed determined to ask tough questions.

But the fact that they were asked by two people anxious to get a foothold on prime time television to a man with video to plug undermined one's confidence in the spectacle.

Only the treacly "Tell us about the Nicole you loved," reminded us that these were not exactly questions from Jeremy Paxman or Jonathan Dimbleby (interviewers whom Simpson wisely declined to face). Five minutes with either of them and he would have been confessing responsibility for the state of the public sector borrowing requirement.

But the fact that the in-

depth, exclusive interview was completed in just over 10 minutes, and the second half of the programme filled with what Richard grimly promised would be music and conversation with the legendary Neil Diamond, made the interview ridiculous. Richard and Judy may have posed some of the questions that prosecutor Marsha Clarke would dearly love to have asked, but their impact was destroyed by the rollercoaster pacing and the awkward segue into an appraisal of Diamond's oeuvre.

Simpson, looking unfazed by the media frenzy and the cries of "murderer" which have greeted his stay in London, explained why he had bowed to his attorney's advice not to take the stand in last year's trial, in which he was acquitted of murdering his ex-wife Nicole and her friend Ron Goldman.

When asked what sort of person would have killed Nicole Simpson, OJ replied: "I obviously would be speculating. I feel that the answers lie in the world of Fay Rusnick."

The fact that few British viewers would have a clue who Rusknick is (a woman who became Nicole's friend after she had split from OJ) made the interview even more preposterous: we needed more than the idiot's Turn to page 2, column 1

### Britain

**Inside** Sarah Thomson broke down in tears at her trial for killing her husband when the jury heard her called a pathological liar.

**3**

### World News

Britain and France agreed to set up Europe's biggest military missile firm, expected to lead to other defence accords.

**6**

### Finance

Manufacturers have been forced to slash prices to sell goods as weak demand has stopped them passing costs on to customers.

**12**

### Sport

Leicester may challenge the six-month ban on Neil Back for pushing the referee at Rugby Union's cup final.

**14**

Comment and Letters 8  
Obituaries 10  
Crossword 15; Weather 16  
Radio 16; TV 16

770261 307323

## Contents insurance. Make sure you're not robbed.

You could be paying up to 30% more than necessary on home contents insurance. Why not come direct to us and cut out the middleman? We just cut the cost, not the cover. If you want to see how much you could save - reach for the phone. The red one on wheels.

**DIRECT LINE**  
HOME INSURANCE

LONDON 0181 686 8877	BIRMINGHAM 0121 236 8877
MANCHESTER 0161 839 8877	LEEDS 0113 246 8877
GLASGOW 0141 226 8877	BRISTOL 0117 945 8877

A member of the Association of British Insurers and of the Insurance Commission Bureau. Not available in Northern Ireland. All products subject to our normal underwriting criteria.

Sketch

Best of enemies at harm's length



Simon Hoggart

PETER Mandelson slumped on the Labour front bench, legs slightly apart, arms folded across his chest, eyes hooded like a well-fed lizard. From time to time he would pull out a pocket bleeper and peer at it. I had always thought that bleepers were not permitted in the Commons chamber, though no doubt this was one of those silent ones which vibrate gently against the flesh when its owner's attention is required. It must be rather pleasant. Perhaps Mr Mandelson has a friend who bleeps him now and again, just to cheer him up. By contrast, John Prescott sat up, looking bright-eyed and perky. Mr Derek Foster sat between them, in order to keep the peace. Mr Foster, who is the party spokesman on the civil service, resembles a snooker referee in manner and appearance. "Now lads, let's see if we can't settle this am-i-cably, right lads?" For someone who is supposed to be the smooth, behind-the-scenes Mr Fixit of the Labour Party, Peter Mandelson has an extraordinary gift for making enemies. He has been known to "boycott" people for fixed lengths of time, by way of punishment. We learned this weekend that he has not spoken to Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, for 18 months, although both men have important roles to play in the party's election campaign. As for his relations with Mr Prescott, we are told these have "improved". Well, they can hardly have got worse. Possibly they began as incandescent hatred on Mr Prescott's part and have since been downgraded to rancorous resentment. A mutual friend tells me that Mr Mandelson's greatest skill is in nurturing the people he does like. "If he wants you

on his side, he lavishes all his charm, his affection and his hard work on you," this friend told me. "He is like a little puppy." I suppose this makes him Britain's only lap-rottweiler. The Labour team was facing Michael Heseltine, who was curiously downbeat. He perked up only with a question from Jacques Arnold (C. Gravesham, or the Unquiet Gravesham as we now call it), who had been dug up by the whips yesterday morning to ask about Mr Mandelson's feud with Gordon Brown. "An interesting thought," said the Hezza, genially. "I would like to hold a reception, so that they can get together in convivial circumstances and iron it all out." Mr Skinner snarled that the Prime Minister had talked about having three bastards in his Cabinet. Yet the leadership election last year implied there were fully 80 bastards. Mr Heseltine beamed at him. "I will invite you to the reception as well," he said. Yesterday's questions ended with my favourite monthly session, as Michael Allison (C. Selby) answers for the Church Commissioners. The moment came and the sun suddenly poured through the windows, bathing the chamber in a radiant light. Tony Banks (Lab. Newham NW) was outraged — or at least was pretending to be outraged — by the fact that the Bishop of Chelmsford had said he was dissatisfied with his episcopal palace, although it has six bedrooms and sits in three acres. "If a manager was good enough for our Lord, then whingeing from princes of the Church is not good enough for us!" (I had always assumed that a manager was where, in his grumpier moods, Mr Mandelson kept his dog.) Mr Allison replied, in that slow, fluting voice reminiscent of the more old-fashioned Anglo-Catholic priests: "The Bishop occupies only a small part of the palace, which is impossibly close to the A12, a dual carriageway, so you cannot hear yourself think, speak — or pray." Mr Banks snorted with scorn. "It's only the Lord needs to hear you pray!" he shouted. Some people just don't know how to behave in Church.

'A lot of people are going to be sued before I am through with this'

O J Simpson



O. J. Simpson makes a point during his live interview on Richard Madeley and Judy Finnegan's new evening chat show

PHOTOGRAPH: CARLTON

No answers in OJ quiz show

So what questions would some of television's sharpest interrogators have asked OJ?

continued from page 1 guide to the OJ murder trial at the start of the programme to understand Simpson's discursive replies. Compared with Richard and Judy, the 46-year-old former football star looked relaxed in an open necked shirt, as well he might. After all, there was much more at stake for them than him. This was the first of Tonight With Richard Madeley and Judy Finnegan, a live show in which the pair were clearly determined to banish the memory of their failed Sunday evening programme, The Richard and Judy Show, as well as their less than distinguished daytime interviewing record. For Simpson, having claimed his £1 interview fee and collecting as much as £40,000 expenses from Granada Television for the trip, this was an occasion for complaint against media misrepresentation during the trial. "A lot of people are going to be sued before I am finished with this, especially the tabloids," he said. It was also a time for him to plug the video in which he reconstructs his activities on the night of the murder. Simpson said "Oh, Jesus" as the interviewers wound up the proceedings, perhaps in protest at the farcically brief nature of the interview, but more likely in relief. Now he has to negotiate interviews with a golfing magazine. In an interview with the Voice newspaper yesterday, O J Simpson admitted the murder trial had left him "flat broke and in debt". But he went on: "I haven't profited from this terrible incident. Before this my life was very comfortable. Right now I have no financial security." At one time it was estimated the American football and movie star had a fortune of nearly £7 million but since the trial in which he was acquitted of killing his wife and Ron Goldman, his earnings have plummeted. He told the Voice he sometimes woke up at night thinking of his dead wife. "At four o'clock this morning I was lying awake and thinking of Nicole... and asking myself what am I doing here."



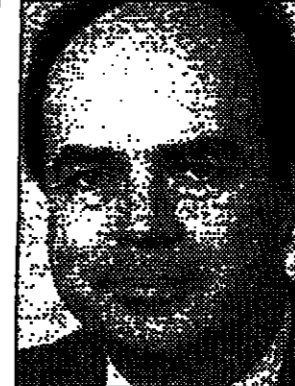
"If you ask people to believe your innocence why didn't you take the witness stand so the jury could hear what you had to say — and, oh by the way, can I please borrow your good luck charm for the next year?" John Humphrys, presenter of Radio 4's Today



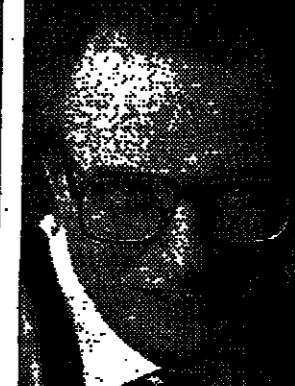
"How can you prove to me that you didn't do it? Why did you run away in that car with a gun to your head?" Melvyn Bragg, presenter of Start the Week and LWT's South Bank Show



"If you're prepared to talk to me, why wouldn't you talk to the jury — and where did you leave the knife?" Richard Littlejohn, presenter of LWT's Littlejohn Live and Uncut



"Would you have got away with it if you hadn't had the money to pay for the most expensive lawyers in the land? And if you had not been black, would you have got off?" Nick Clarke, presenter of The World at One



"You are not going to get him to confess, so I would come at him from a different angle: Do you say you didn't do this, so what is it like to be accused and why aren't you angrier?" Larry King, presenter, CNN's Larry King Show Interviews by Andrew Cull

First night

Soundscape with emotional punch

Bob Flynn

Twenty Movements for Orchestra/A Scottish Island King's Theatre, Glasgow

MAYFEST this year is undergoing a bit of a musical renaissance. After the shimmering, experimental triumph of Rhys Chatham's extravaganza for 100 guitars, it offered two world premieres from Scottish composers in one programme. New Glaswegian wonder-boy Craig Armstrong was the man behind Twenty Movements for Orchestra, while traditional folk musician William Jackson provided A Scottish Island. Both were performed by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra under the baton of Cecilia Weston, and the contrast could not have been more dramatic. Armstrong is one of the most prolific and eclectic composers of his generation, whose atmospheric orchestral work has been heard in everything from RSC theatre productions to the film soundtracks of Goldeneye and Batman Forever. He is a graduate of the Royal Academy of Music and Jazz Musician of the Year, who pays no attention to musical boundaries. Using the sampled voices of 10 Glaswegians of all ages, describing times of the day as the starting point for each of the 20 brief movements, Armstrong laced sentences and snatches of words into the music to compelling effect. Although deliberately fragmented, the pace was relentless and a taut, breathy performance by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra illum-

nated the piece with a tension and drive that never faltered, as sampled words and looped reggae beats shot through the movements, while images and lighting effects were projected on to a transparent screen in front of them. Over the collages of sounds, the glorious, cool power of mezzo-soprano Colette Ruddy sailed out, sometimes singing the spoken narrative, sometimes overlapping with the music, creating an ethereal soundscape that was sinister, strident and beautiful in turn. The important thing was the unexpected emotional punch. One of the movements, in which a child's voice described the flowers in a French garden, was a seamless blend of narrative, orchestra and song creating a sense of child-like wonder. While movement 16, a woman describing an early morning birth, had an eerie grace. With this haunting new work, Armstrong is moving towards a kind of new opera where multi-media is a redundant term and the sampler is an integral part of the orchestra. William Jackson's A Scottish Island, was a weak water-colour beside Armstrong's dark, edgy work and sounded delicate and underdeveloped. It originated very much from the traditional places of Scottish music, but the idea of blending folk sounds, using harps, whistles and pipes, with a dreamy backdrop of strings, never caught fire. It was probably unfortunate to combine the two works, as Armstrong's cutting edge only heightened the sense that Jackson's evocation of island landscapes was outdated.

United Biscuits ends use of fish oil after penguin protest

UNITED Biscuits agreed to phase out the use of oil from industrial fisheries in their McVitie's biscuits only hours after 150 Greenpeace supporters dressed as penguins yesterday blocked the entrance to its factory in Harlesden, west London, writes Paul Brown. The fishery, which each year sucks up 5 million tonnes of sand eels for the sea bed is

condemned by Britain because of fears that it affects the stocks of haddock and cod. Greenpeace and bodies such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds are concerned about the wildlife, including puffins for which the sand eel is a staple diet during the breeding season. United Biscuits currently uses 5,000 tonnes of fish oil in its McVitie's brand each year.

Ministers' beef threat

John Palmer in Brussels

PROSPECTS for a partial lifting of the European Union ban on British beef hung in the balance last night as the Government issued veiled threats to block the EU's decision-making machinery if there is no early easing of the embargo. With governments still split on the wisdom of lifting the ban, the key decision rests in the hands of a committee of veterinary experts from the 15 EU countries which meets in Brussels tomorrow. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, warned EU foreign ministers in Brussels yesterday that a continued refusal for a limited easing of the ban would "intensify the frustration felt by both the people and the Government in Britain". Since the Commission has recommended an easing of

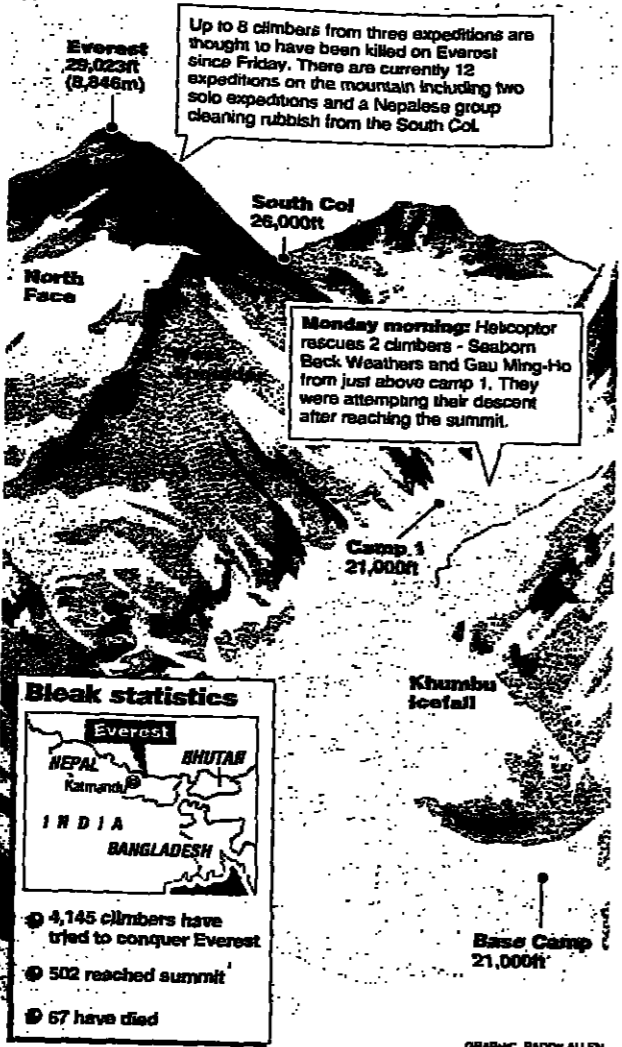
the ban it would not be remotely fair if any member state government was to oppose that," he said last night. Although Mr Rifkind did not say how the Government would retaliate, British sources admitted that a wide range of measures were being considered in London. These could range from demands for extra EU ministerial meetings and a possible crisis meeting of heads of government to the deliberate blocking of some or all EU decisions on other matters. Thought has also been given to a partial or complete "empty chair" policy similar to that followed by France under President de Gaulle in the mid-1960s. But British officials fear that abstention from meetings in Brussels might rebound on the Government by encouraging more majority decisions by the rest of the EU. Last night EU ministers

debated potential areas for more majority voting, possibly linked to giving further "opt outs" to dissenting countries such as Britain, during a session of the conference to review the Maastricht treaty. Much will depend on the attitude of the French government. Mr Major will use his meeting with President Jacques Chirac in London today to demand support on the BSE issue, in return for Britain's support when the rest of the EU condemned French nuclear tests in the Pacific last year. Sales of British beef are running at 94 per cent of 1995 levels, with the public showing a "strong return of confidence", the Meat and Livestock Commission said yesterday. Sales dropped by between 20 per cent and 30 per cent when publicity about BSE was at its height at the end of March.

Advertisement for General Accident Direct insurance. Features a hand holding a pen, the text 'Down goes the cost of your motor and home contents insurance with our no claims discount. Call now for details.', and contact information: 'MOTOR INSURANCE BUILDINGS & CONTENTS 0800 121 000 0800 121 004'. Includes the logo for General Accident Direct and a small image of a hand holding a pen.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

### Mountain death toll



**Bleak statistics**

Everest

NEPAL

INDIA

BHUTAN

BANGLADESH

4,145 climbers have tried to conquer Everest

502 reached summit

67 have died



**'A bivouac 150 metres below the summit in bad weather means you're going to get frostbite, and it could go through to death. He would have been aware of that'**

Peter Hillary



New Zealander Rob Hall with his wife Jan Arnold after they climbed Everest together in 1993. Hall is believed to have died near the summit at the weekend

## Doomed climber's final call



Seaborn Beck Weathers in Kathmandu after being rescued

John Duncan

**R**OB HALL knew he was probably going to die on Everest: he and his party were trapped at 25,200ft, frostbitten, without a tent or sleeping bag and almost no oxygen, fluids or food.

So on Saturday night, the New Zealander picked up the radio as bad weather closed in, called the radio operator and asked to be put through to his pregnant wife.

Only she knows exactly what he said, though friends later came on the line and encouraged him, telling him he was going to be okay. "He said: 'Hey, look, don't worry

about me," said his assistant Madeleine David, from New Zealand.

A climbing colleague painted a bleaker picture. "A bivouac without equipment 150 metres below the summit in bad weather means at the very least you're going to get frostbite, and it could go right through to death," said Peter Hillary, son of Sir Edmund, last night. "He would have been aware of that."

Now Hall, who had climbed the mountain five times, is assumed dead, along with eight other climbers from three separate expeditions. After one of the worst weekends in the history of climbing on the mountain, the recorded death toll stands at 67.

Those attempting Everest

expect to face sheer rock faces and treacherous ice, but the mountain's fatal distraction is the weather, which can close in quickly and leave competent climbers stranded and helpless.

There is a two-week window of opportunity in May, when wind, temperature and snow are at their friendliest. But the "season" carries no guarantees and when a blizzard struck the summit on Friday, Hall would have known that there was only a slim chance of escape. His wife, who had climbed Everest with him three years ago, would have known too.

With Hall was fellow New Zealander Andrew Harris, who also perished. They were leading an expedition of pay-

ing clients organised by New Zealand firm Adventure Consultants. "Two guides have lost their lives, and two clients," Hall's assistant Madeleine David said from the firm's headquarters in Christchurch, New Zealand.

One of the two other victims from the New Zealand expedition was Yasuko Nambu, aged 47, who recently had become the second Japanese woman to conquer Everest.

Also dead is Douglas Hansen, an American, aged 44. Unconfirmed reports say that Hall might have survived had he not lagged behind to care for the severely ill Hansen as the group made their way to safety.

It is being suggested that

another American who died, Scott Fischer, who was in charge of a party from his company Mountain Madness, may also have perished attempting to rescue another climber.

His own clients returned safely to base camp but Fischer was found late on Friday night in a coma and attached to a rope, apparently having made a vain attempt to rescue a Taiwanese climber who was not a member of his group. Three Indian climbers also died.

Others were luckier. Nepali rescuers airlifted two severely frostbitten climbers to Nepal's capital Kathmandu by helicopter yesterday but reported that there were still about 50 climbers in 11 expe-

ditions on the mountain, although they appeared to be safe.

Six other clients from Hall's party, one guide and two Sherpas, made it to a camp lower down the mountain. One person from the group — an American, Seaborn Beck Weathers, a 49-year-old Dallas pathologist who scaled Everest on Friday — was airlifted to Kathmandu yesterday with severe frostbite.

Also lifted out with frostbite was Taiwan's Ming-Ho Gau, a 47-year-old photographer from Taipei, who led a five-member expedition to the summit on Friday. Both men were in critical condition, rescuers said though Weathers was able to speak of his ordeal last night.

## Sara Thornton 'a violent liar'

Prosecution at retrial alleges cash motive for killing husband

Vivek Chaudhary

**S**ARA Thornton, accused of killing her husband almost seven years ago, broke down in tears yesterday as the jury at her retrial heard her described as a pathological liar with an alcohol problem who committed murder out of "financial considerations".

The retrial was ordered by the Court of Appeal last December. Thornton, 41, denies murdering her husband in June 1989.

Brian Escott-Cox, QC, prosecuting, told the jury at Oxford crown court that alcohol featured prominently in the relationship between Sara and Malcolm Thornton, which became violent within months of their meeting at a pub in 1977.

The jury of eight men and four women was told by Mr Justice Scott Baker: "This case is in fact a retrial ordered by the Court of Appeal. There was an earlier trial but it is the evidence in this court that you have to consider."

Mr Escott-Cox told the

court that Thornton killed her 44-year-old husband as he lay in a drunken stupor on the sofa in their home in Atherton, Warwickshire.

As he outlined the events of the night, Thornton broke down in tears and sobbed: "Please take me home."

Mr Escott-Cox said that Thornton suffered from a personality disorder which was only discovered after the death of her husband.

"The effect of it was to make her a compulsive attention seeker. One of the ways that she did that was to shock people in what she said, what she did, how she dressed, and how she behaved."

"The Crown submits that she frequently tells people what she wants them to hear regardless of the reality of the situation. Another cruel way of putting it... is that she is a pathological liar."

Mr Escott-Cox told the court that the police had been called to the Thorntons' home, following violence, on at least five occasions.

Mr Thornton, a former police inspector, had been treated for his drink problem

in a London clinic in 1968 but had begun drinking heavily once again, losing his job and driving licence.

Two days before the murder, a day which Mr Escott-Cox referred to as "the Sunday from hell", the Thorntons had been arguing. Sara Thornton, who was preparing a meal, threatened her husband with a knife, said Mr Escott-Cox.

After being disarmed by her stepson, Martin, Thornton then fed her husband chicken which had been spiked with six tablets of Moganon.

The court heard that on the night of her husband's death, Thornton had gone for a drink with Martin, Mr Thornton's son by his first marriage. She had scribbled on the bedroom dressing table mirror with lipstick: "Bastard Thornton. I hate you."

The jury heard that when Thornton arrived home she found her husband asleep on the sofa. She went into the kitchen and took a knife from a drawer. "The knife was large and sharp and well pointed. About six inches went into his (Mr Thornton's) body just below the rib cage on the left hand side. She stood over him and plunged the knife into him."

Mr Escott-Cox told the court that the killing was prompted by financial considerations. He said: "Sara Thornton had a fixation that if she left Malcolm before being married to him for a year she would lose her interest in the house."

The jury was also told that Mr Thornton was expecting a large sum of money after working in Saudi Arabia and that his wife planned to forge his signature to obtain it.

Thornton allegedly told a number of close friends that she planned to kill her husband, the court was told.

Mr Escott-Cox said that while attending a work conference, Thornton told Helen Thomas, a colleague who is to give evidence at the trial, "The only way to sort this out is to kill him."

On the day of the murder, Thornton met a taxi driver friend and the two went for a drink. She allegedly told him, "It's knife the bastard," referring to her husband.

The court heard evidence for the prosecution from Henry Cooper, Thornton's father, who claimed that he briefly met his daughter at his Devon home days before the murder and she appeared "happy and bouncing."

The hearing continues.

## Teaching union forces climbdown over return of 'violent' pupil

Peter Hetherington

**G**OVERNMENT procedures for dealing with disruptive pupils were thrown into further chaos last night when a teaching union forced a local education authority to back down over the re-admission of an allegedly violent boy.

The National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers claimed victory after a day of negotiations by keeping 13-year-old Graham Cram out of a classroom at Hebburn Comprehensive school, on South Tyneside — in spite of a ruling by an independent appeals panel, backed by the local director of education, that he should return to "normal" lessons.

The union, angered that the school's decision to expel the boy had been overturned by the panel, claimed that Graham was a threat to teachers' safety. He is alleged to have punched a teacher last July.

School governors and the head teacher, facing strike



Graham Cram arrives at Hebburn Comprehensive school, South Tyneside, yesterday with his father, Peter

action if any NASUWT members were forced to teach the boy, met the union's general secretary, Nigel de Gruchy, for four hours yesterday. Thirty minutes after police warned Graham's father, Peter, to leave the school, Mr de Gruchy emerged triumphant as head teacher Madeleine Watson attempted to supervise a "personal education programme" with a supply teacher, away from other pupils.

"We have struck a blow for

the maintenance of sensible discipline and the protection of teachers and other pupils against violence," Mr de Gruchy said. He revealed that the union would take a further secret ballot to prepare for strike action if this proved necessary in the future.

"That's good news, for everyone and hopefully for the youngster concerned. His interests have not been very well served by all the publicity his father is managing to achieve for him."

But South Tyneside's education director, Ian Reid, challenged the union's call for the abolition of the independent appeals panels, which was introduced as the Government devolved power to schools. While Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, was reviewing the work of the panels, he said, "natural justice" would still require the right of appeal to an independent body.

Ms Watson said she had not refused to re-admit the boy, but members of the NASUWT had refused to teach him. "I have worked personally with the pupil this morning. I am prepared to continue pending further consultation with the local education authority, the governing body and parents."

The day began with the boy's father, 38-year-old Peter Cram, insisting that he would not tolerate his son being taught in isolation from other pupils — a compromise reached early last December after a panel ruled against the school and said the boy should be readmitted to school.

He later accepted his son could not immediately return to class, but denied he had backed down. "I have never received one-for-one tuition... I have just got to wait day by day, and see what happens. I want what's best for Graham." He still threatens unspecified legal action.

## Heavyweight spec. Lightweight price. Lift the phone.

- INTEL® 133MHz PENTIUM® PROCESSOR
- INTEL® 430VX PCISSET
- 16Mb HIGH PERFORMANCE SDRAM
- 512Kb PIPELINE BURST CACHE
- 1.6Gb HARD DRIVE
- STB POWERGRAPH 64-BIT PCI GRAPHICS CARD
- WITH 2Mb VIDEO MEMORY
- 15" SVGA MONITOR (13.75" VIEWABLE AREA)
- 3 PCI, 2 ISA AND 1 PCI/ISA SHARED EXPANSION SLOTS
- MID-SIZED DESKTOP CHASSIS
- SIX-SPEED CD-ROM DRIVE
- INTEGRATED 16-BIT SOUND (SPEAKERS OPTIONAL)
- MICROSOFT OFFICE PROFESSIONAL 95
- MICROSOFT WINDOWS 95
- DELL MOUSE AND KEYBOARD

**£1,399 (£1,673.20 incl. delivery + VAT)**

At Dell we've always believed in equipping you with the fittest, leading edge technology at a lean price. But our new Ready-to-Run Dell Dimension XPSP133s breaks new barriers: for just £1,399 (£1,673.20 incl. delivery & VAT), it incorporates the Intel® 430VX PCISSET and matches a muscular 133MHz Pentium® processor with 16Mb of the latest high speed SDRAM. What's more, this powerful new technology comes with a specification to match:

a 1.6Gb Hard Drive. Six Speed CD ROM and Microsoft® Office Professional 95 are just some of the features included. But its practically limitless potential is only available for a limited period. So exercise your telephone arm now and call the world's largest direct PC manufacturer\* on 01344 724601.

Designed for Microsoft® Windows 95

**DELL®**

TALK DIRECT TO THE NUMBER ONE. **01344 724601**

Between 8am and 8pm weekdays, 10am to 4pm Sat.

# 4 BRITAIN

## Government backs idea of parallel discussions

# 'Separate' Ulster arms talks mooted

Patrick Wintour and David Sharrock

THE Government is privately backing the idea of separating the issue of decommissioning paramilitary weapons from the main talks on the future of Northern Ireland on June 10.

The call for separate, but parallel talks on paramilitary weapons was first made by the Irish foreign minister, Dick Spring, last month, but is winning cautious private support from the Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, as well as Labour spokesman Mo Mowlam.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, yesterday played down speculation of an early reinstatement of the IRA ceasefire. But British ministers are eager to set ground rules for the June 10 talks in such a way that negotiations on decommissioning would not block progress. They recognise that the issue cannot be independent of the main political talks.

Before the start of all-party talks, ministers want to discuss with all the main parties how the talks would be held, including whether they would all be in the same room, and how they would be required to honour the six principles of the Mitchell Commission, the pre-condition for talks.

Ministers believe that it will not be necessary for individual Northern Ireland politicians to sign up to the Mitchell principles, but instead for the political parties to do so. David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, insists his party will not speak to Sinn Fein until it not only agrees to the Mitchell principles, but does so in a way that they are seen to be honoured.

Ministers also want prior agreement on the agenda.

In the face of conflicting signals from Sinn Fein, the Government appears unclear whether the IRA will announce the restoration of the ceasefire before the talks, but is stressing that proven restoration after the start will still allow Sinn Fein to take its place at the negotiating table.

Northern Ireland ministers are also planning to publish a bill on the decommissioning of arms before the talks. The bill would provide an amnesty for those who hand over arms, but not for those who have committed crimes.

The mood lifted in Northern Ireland yesterday after a warmer reaction by Sinn Fein to a new overture from Sir Patrick.

He said both governments hoped there would be genuine discussions on an open agenda "with nothing pre-ordained, nothing ruled out, nothing ruled in... It's just as important that that should be made clear as it is important that the issue of decommissioning has got to be addressed."

After Sir Patrick had apparently downgraded the importance of a surrender of IRA weapons, Sinn Fein's chairman, Mitchel McLaughlin, gave it a cautious welcome. He told Irish radio that if John Major gave the same reassurance "then I think we would know there is a potential for doing business."



Irish foreign minister Dick Spring with Sir Patrick Mayhew yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

# Lloyd Webber walks into court show stopper

Nick Varley

THE composer Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber has failed in an attempt to bring the curtain down on a rambling show in which he is the unwilling star.

More than 20 years after moving to Sydmonton Court, an 18th century Hampshire near Basingstoke, Hampshire, he grew tired of walkers using a footpath through the estate and coming within 50 metres of his home, which is near Watership Down. But his five-year battle to reroute them was lost yesterday.

Ron Amblin, the government inspector who conducted the two-day public inquiry, decided to re-route the footpath — which dates from at least 1789, according to campaigners — would be a loss to the public. "The provision of better distant views does not balance the loss of limited close views of listed buildings," he said.

The footpath commands close-up views of three Grade II listed buildings on the Lloyd Webber estate. But walkers also come across the composer's guests, accommodated on the other side of the path to the main house.

Kate Ashbrook, spokeswoman for the Open Spaces Society, said Sir Andrew was

concerned about his guests having to "mingle with the public. He was also worried about security, but if people want to do something nasty, they don't need a footpath."

Sir Andrew was said to be disappointed by the decision, but his staff denied that it was he who really wanted the path moved. Estate manager Jonathan Webber said in a statement: "This was a Hampshire county council scheme which the Lloyd Webbers supported, as they had been convinced by the council that the proposal would open up significant areas of Watership Down to walkers and other users."

But Harvey Davies, council rights-of-way manager, said: "The application was not investigated by the council. We are obliged under the Highways Act of 1980 to examine any application from a land owner."

The estimated \$7,000 cost of the inquiry will be met by the council, with Sir Andrew paying for the professional witnesses his legal team, led by Jeremy Sullivan QC, called.

Protester David Ramm, who has sold 3,000 copies of a book which includes the walk around Sydmonton Court, said: "If we had lost this it would have been terrible. [Sir Andrew] is only a guardian of the estate. He can't take it with him when he's gone."

# Wogan attacks 'incompetent' BBC during Eldorado saga

Andrew Cull Media Correspondent

UNTIL now Terry Wogan's criticisms of the BBC had been confined to gentle mocking of its chairman on his Radio 2 show.

Marmaduke Hussey had been caricatured as living in a cardboard box outside Broadcasting House, while the BBC is now in the grip of the "hand of Bland", its new chairman, Sir Christopher.

But today Mr Wogan, best known for lampooning the efforts of Norwegians in the Eurovision Song Contest, lets fly at the "incompetence" of the BBC, claiming it sacrificed his reputation for the £10 million soap Eldorado.

The BBC had refused to let him give up his thrice-weekly television chat show a year before it was dropped in 1992. Then it "sacrificed me for Eldorado which allowed the press to say 'Wogan axed'. I felt peeved by the insensitivity — no, incompetence — with which it was handled", he says in an interview in the Radio Times, published today.

"But what kind of fool am I to expect competence from a huge monolith?" He admits a sense of satisfaction when Eldorado was also deemed a flop and axed after less than a year.

The Restless idea of education, information and entertainment had been sold down the river in favour of instant success, trivial light entertainment, soap operas, sitcoms and quiz games, according to the former Blankety Blank host, aged 57.

# ITV grounds duchess's Budgie the Helicopter

Andrew Cull Media Correspondent

THE Duchess of York's finances were dealt another blow yesterday when ITV confirmed it had turned down plans for a fourth cartoon series of Budgie the Little Helicopter.

The ITV Network Centre said the third series of the cartoon based on her children's book, which was shown last winter, had flopped in the ratings. Programmers had decided it was time to "freshen up" the afternoon schedule.

Earlier this year in the United States the duchess signed a multi-million pound deal based on future earnings from the cartoon character designed to restore her finances. The duchess, soon to be divorced from the Duke of York, is thought to have debts of several million pounds.

A spokeswoman for ITV said: "The last series was not as successful as the other two in terms of numbers watching, but it's been up against stiff competition from other programmes and there are lots of factors involved. We might take it up again some time in the future."

The duchess's office said she had no comment to make on the decision. Sleepy Kids, the company which markets and distributes the Budgie programmes and merchandise, played down the blow.

A spokesman said: "Rarely does an animation series get commissioned year after year, and we are confident that ITV will be looking for a fourth series in 1997."

"Some of today's leading classic shows generated very few commissioned episodes in their early years whereas Budgie, after only two years, has already accumulated 39 11-minute episodes."

Spring Mortgage Deals

1833 The first hippo arrives in Britain.

1935 Jesse Owens breaks five world records in 45 mins.

1967 John Lennon unveils his psychedelically decorated Phantom 5 Rolls Royce.

1996 Our Spring Mortgage Deals close

A unique day May 25th. A day for one-off events. Like the closing of our Spring Mortgage deals.

That means after May 25th you'll no longer be able to take advantage of such a rare package that includes: Free Valuation, One Year's Free

Unemployment Insurance and our Lowest Mortgage Rate since 1966.

To find out more, drop into your local branch or call free on 0800 412 214.

And make sure May 25th isn't a date for missed opportunity.

**ALLIANCE LEICESTER**

<http://www.alliance-leicester.co.uk>

THE SPRING MORTGAGE DEALS ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO NEW CUSTOMERS OR EXISTING BORROWERS MOVING HOME WHO APPLY FOR A MORTGAGE BETWEEN 1 MARCH AND 28 MAY 1996. THE LOWEST MORTGAGE RATE SINCE 1966 REFERS TO THE CURRENT BASIC VARIABLE RATE OF 7.25% (LESS AN AND THE 10% BASIC VARIABLE RATE OF 7.25%. THE VALUATION REFUND OFFER IS LIMITED TO THE VALUE OF THE SOCIETY'S OPTION 1 VALUATION AND IS PAYABLE AFTER COMPLETION OF YOUR MORTGAGE TO QUALIFY FOR A VALUATION REFUND, THE SOCIETY MUST CHOOSE AND INSTRUCT THE VALUER. THE VALUATION REFUND OFFER CANNOT BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER VALUATION REFUND OFFERS. FULL DETAILS ABOUT THESE MORTGAGES, INCLUDING DETAILS OF ELIGIBILITY AND EXCLUSIONS APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT, ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT, ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS COVER IS INSURED BY SUN ALLIANCE AND LONDON INSURANCE PLC. YOUR HOME IS SECURED BY THE SOCIETY'S MORTGAGE PROTECTION POLICY. YOUR HOME IS SECURED BY THE SOCIETY'S MORTGAGE PROTECTION POLICY. QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FOR INTEREST ONLY MORTGAGES AN APPROPRIATE PERSONAL EQUITY PLAN (PEP), PENSION PLAN OR EMPLOYMENT POLICY FOR THE AMOUNT AND TERM OF THE LOAN MUST ALSO BE ARRANGED. CONTRIBUTIONS/PEP CUMULATIONS WILL BE PAYABLE TO THE COMPANY INVOLVED. FOR LOANS EXCEEDING 75% OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OF VALUATION PROTECTION IS THE LOWEST A HIGH PERCENTAGE LOAN FEE WILL BE CHARGED. DETAILS OF THIS FEE ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. MORTGAGES ARE RESTRICTED TO 95% OF THE PURCHASE PRICE/VALUATION (WHICHEVER IS THE LOWER) OR IN THE CASE OF SELF-EMPLOYED APPLICANTS 80%. INFORMATION IS CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. IF YOU TAKE A FIXED AND/OR DISCOUNTED RATE, OR CASHBACK MORTGAGE, REPAYMENT FEES WILL APPLY IF YOUR MORTGAGE IS REFINANCED, IN WHOLE OR PART, OR IF YOU TRANSFER TO ANOTHER OF OUR PRODUCTS WITHIN THE REPAYMENT FEE PERIOD. FOR FULL DETAILS ABOUT THESE OFFERS INCLUDING ANY CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS PLEASE ENQUIRE AT YOUR LOCAL ALLIANCE & LEICESTER BRANCH, ALLIANCE & LEICESTER BUILDING SOCIETY, HOME ADMINISTRATION, HOME PARK MOVING, LESTER SQUARE, LEICESTER LE1 5JG. ALLIANCE & LEICESTER BUILDING SOCIETY, WHICH IS REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY AND ALLIANCE & LEICESTER UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LIMITED, WHICH IS REGULATED BY HBRO, ONLY SELLS ITS OWN LIFE ASSURANCE UNIT TRUSTS AND PEP PRODUCTS. MAY 1996

NEW 1996 EDITION

The **MEDIA GUIDE**

A Guardian Book

The expanded 1996 edition contains in depth information on all aspects of the media. Including complete listings of national and regional newspapers, a profile of the world of broadcasting and a directory of professional sources from syndication services to media training courses. £12

Send to: The Guardian Book Offer, JEM Marketing, Little Mead, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 3ND. A Guardian Book Published by 4th Estate

Please send me  copies of Media Guide 1996. I enclose a crossed cheque value £  (add £1.50 p&p per book) payable to The Guardian. Or debit my Access/Visa with the sum of £

Card no:

Expiry date:

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Signature:

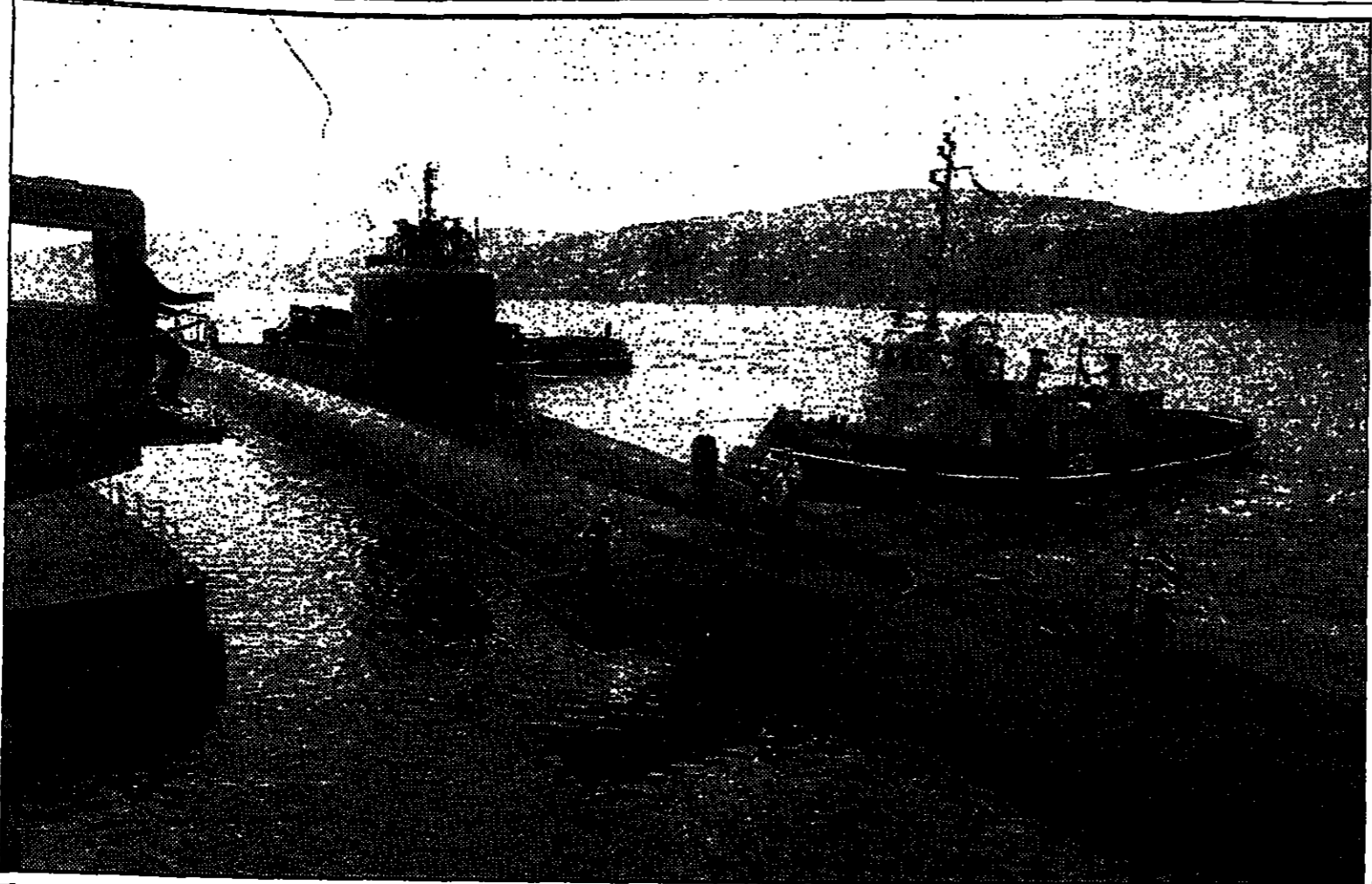
Please allow 28 days for delivery OR CALL THE CREDIT CARD HOTLINE ON: 01483 266 888

GNS063

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Webber into court stopper

Webber... into court... stopper... [Faded text]



Home is the hunter... the one-time terror of Soviet statists arrives at Coullport, 'a sad day' for Sir Jock Slater, the First Sea Lord

Trident fears raised as Polaris goes early

Propulsion reactor problems end life of nuclear submarine

David Fairhall Defence Correspondent

THE last Polaris missile submarine was prematurely retired yesterday, raising fears that hundreds of millions of pounds may have been wasted on the replacement force.

be only two Trident missile boats available until 1998 and the last will not be completed until the turn of the century. This tends to confirm what the Admiralty has always privately admitted — that the fourth submarine is in reality a \$500 million insurance policy against one of the others being lost or damaged.

to operate an effective deterrent," the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament said. Some Labour MPs share CND's scepticism. In the run-up to the last general election there was talk of an incoming Labour government cancelling the fourth boat — at which stage perhaps £250 million of its £500 million cost could have been saved.

Final cruise for HMS Repulse

David Fairhall

FOR men who have spent the last two months under water contemplating the destruction of the human race, a cruise down Loch Long is probably as good a pick-me-up as any.

it well," beamed 69-year-old Rear Admiral Tony Whetstone, who had taken Repulse on its first patrol in 1969. Captain John Harris, the commander of Repulse's squadron, pointed out that the submarine had gone into service just as the Prague spring was being snuffed out, and had played a part in the subsequent stabilising of the world.

Police to question woman over dead baby in freezer

Nick Varley

POLICE were waiting last night by the hospital bed of a woman to question her about the discovery of a baby's body in her freezer.

it was a natural death." The body of the baby, thought to have been born on April 5, was discovered at Miss Gifford's flat in Kensington, west London, last week.

UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS 13.8% APR 0800 30 3000

5 sensible reasons to invest in the HP Printer Megapack. HP DeskJet 600/660C Printer - so you can print vibrant colours, sharper edges and get the best contrast on any media with excellent print quality. MYST Adventure Game - which sharpens your lateral thinking. Print Shop Deluxe gives you the creative freedom to design anything from a business card to a banner or a label to a poster. FREE 10 HOUR CompuServe Internet connection - enabling you to data gather and research references for all your academic papers and projects, as well as publish on the net with Lotus Word Pro. Lotus Word Pro96 word processing program and 45 day trial of Lotus SmartSuite - so your dissertations will be written in the most professional manner.

EL TIDE Urban Book

Standard Direct Bank can be found on Web site http://www.directbank.co.uk. 13.8% APR is available on loans from £1,000 to £10,000. 15.2% APR is available on loans from £500 to £4,999. Loans for business or investment purposes are excluded. Visit www.directbank.co.uk for more information. Personal Loans. Rates are correct as at 10/05/96. A written quotation of our credit terms is available on request. All loans are subject to status. You must be aged 24 years or over and an acceptor of a regular income. This offer is not available to residents of the Isle of Man, Jersey or Guernsey. For more information and to apply for a loan, contact us on 0800 30 3000. The 10 year warranty and to improve our service to you, we now provide a 1 year warranty on all HP printers. © Hewlett-Packard Company. All rights reserved. HP, the HP logo and the name of the HP logo are trademarks of Hewlett-Packard Company. Reproduced with permission under the Printing Act 1988. Registered in England. No. 1111. Registered in Scotland. No. 1111.



HEWLETT-PACKARD

The HP DeskJet 600 requires an optional colour kit for colour printing.

# Anglo-French missile giant

Paul Webster in Paris

**B**RITAIN and France agreed to set up Europe's biggest military missile firm yesterday, on the eve of President Jacques Chirac's British state visit which is expected to lead to other military or defence accords.

News that British Aerospace and Matra-Défense were merging their missile production units to create an industry with a £1 billion annual turnover, coincided with a decision to cut the French defence budget. Mr

Chirac is likely to encourage more joint research and development to slash the French budget deficit and meet the European Union's single currency criteria.

Military co-operation between Britain and France has been made easier by his decision to reintegrate France into Nato's supreme command.

Matra-Défense appears to have persuaded its British partners that the head office should be in Paris, although the two companies will have a 50-50 share. But there has been no announcement about the chief executive.

French arms firms have been hit by a drop in export

sales, domestic cutbacks and decisions to reduce orders because of a move to an all-professional army in 2001. The merger means the French will be able to offer their technology in a bid for three big British arms programmes. These concern an air-to-ground cruise missile for Tornados and British Eurofighters; an air-to-air missile with a range of about 80 miles; and a helicopter-mounted anti-tank

missile. The urgency of finding new markets for French military technology was underlined during yesterday's cabinet meeting which decided to cut defence spending by about 20 billion francs (£2.5 billion) over the next six years.

The government spokesman, Alain Lamassouze, said France intended to encourage defence industry mergers in Europe so that they could face

their American rivals. He said nuclear policy would be based on an increasing dialogue with Britain, Germany and the United States.

Despite plans to cut defence forces by more than a third with an end to conscription, Mr Lamassouze said that France could send up to 50,000 men to future engagements. His promise followed difficulties in providing effective French forces in the Gulf war and former Yugoslavia.

Less than half of the new defence budget will be spent on new weapons, but none of the development programmes decided before Mr Chirac was elected last year is being

abandoned. The programmes include spending on four nuclear submarines, and new missiles equipped with warheads tested during nuclear experiments in the Pacific.

But other programmes are likely to be slowed down, including equipping the air force with Rafale jets and the army with Leclerc tanks.

● The Kuwaiti newspaper al-Watan has reported that Kuwait is to buy more than \$100 million worth of British Sea Skua naval missiles in preference to French weapons.

City notebook, page 11; Defence in flux, page 12

## Chirac is likely to encourage more joint development, to slash his budget deficit

## Embassy plays host to London taxis designed for Parisians

Paul Webster in Paris

**B**RITAIN'S embassy in the French capital is turning its courtyard and gardens into a miniature motor show today for the city's taxi drivers, in an attempt to get them to trade in their saloons for London-style cabs.

After a five-year battle to meet French regulations and overcome the hostility of some cab companies, an almost standard LTI model made in Coventry drove to the Eiffel Tower yesterday as a prelude to a marketing operation by a British importer, David Lea. Three of the vehicles will be on display at the embassy.

As curious Parisians gathered around the demonstration model, Mr Lea, an automobile engineer from Coventry, said he had not the idea "when a friend of mine couldn't go to a football match because no [Paris] taxis could take his wheelchair".

Because there is no similar French vehicle available, 100 licences have been offered by the Paris authorities for owner-drivers ready to operate the vehicles immediately.

"The biggest advantage as far as I'm concerned is the small turning circle," a French driver said. "You can't do a quick U-turn in my Mercedes."

But he was taken aback by the £210,000 (£28,000) price for a basic LTI. Even so, the first 150 are expected to be on the road within a year, with another 1,350 to follow before the end of the century.



Making a mark... A London-style taxi arrives in Paris yesterday, after a five-year battle to meet French regulations to capture a lucrative market

# Ministry claims Croatia faces European snub Russian spy

David Hearst in Moscow and Richard Norton-Taylor

**R**USSIA'S ministry of foreign affairs last night admitted for the first time that one of its middle-ranking officials was a spy who allegedly passed state secrets to British diplomats.

A high-ranking ministry official told the Russian news agency Interfax: "To our greatest regret, there was a black sheep in the family."

The spy affair, which broke a week ago with the news that the Federal Security Service (FSB) was demanding the expulsion of nine people on the British diplomatic list in Moscow, has since lapsed into silence, amid signs that a face-saving compromise is on the table.

In London, officials were anxious not to upset what appear to be delicate, but so far inconclusive, talks.

"Discussions are continuing," a Foreign Office spokesman said.

There is speculation that Russia may insist on fewer than half of the nine diplomats mentioned by the FSB being expelled immediately, with an understanding that the rest would be allowed to stay for longer periods.

Russian security sources have always distinguished between those loosely involved in the affair and the British officials to whom the Russian civil servant was allegedly passing secrets when arrested last month. This left open the possibility that only those directly involved would be immediately declared persona non grata and told to leave.

After the initial loud protest and threat of retaliatory action from the Foreign Office, there has been no comment from the British embassy in Moscow, other than to say negotiations are continuing. An embassy spokesman refused to confirm whether any of the nine

named by the FSB had already left Russia.

Yesterday, an unnamed foreign ministry official spoke of the colleague now under arrest as though his guilt had been established. "He is quite a young man, a middle-rank European Union foreign minister in Brussels were expected to call on the 39-country Council of Europe to reconsider the timetable for Croatia's membership, and to make it conditional on proof that the government has reversed curbs on the independent media and on elected opposition politicians."

A statement being prepared by the foreign ministers reiterated their support for the goal of eventual Croatian membership, which was approved by the Council of European Parliamentary assembly only last month. "A precise timetable should be established as regards the undertakings entered into by Croatia in view of its accession," the statement declared.

EU endorsement of Cro-

John Palmer in Brussels

**C**ROATIA'S plans to join the Council of Europe seemed certain to be put on ice last night because of growing international concern about the Zagreb government's suppression of civil liberties and democracy.

European Union foreign ministers in Brussels were expected to call on the 39-country Council of Europe to reconsider the timetable for Croatia's membership, and to make it conditional on proof that the government has reversed curbs on the independent media and on elected opposition politicians.

A statement being prepared by the foreign ministers reiterated their support for the goal of eventual Croatian membership, which was approved by the Council of European Parliamentary assembly only last month. "A precise timetable should be established as regards the undertakings entered into by Croatia in view of its accession," the statement declared.

EU endorsement of Cro-

atia's membership of the council had been thought a formality. But European governments have been angered at President Tudjman's decision to dissolve the opposition-controlled Zagreb city council, elected earlier this year. They are also critical of the legal measures taken by the president against independent newspapers and broadcasting organisations.

Zagreb, taking account of Council of Europe recommendations" and a "guarantee" of "media freedom".

The former Yugoslav republics of Macedonia and Slovenia are already members of the Council of Europe. Bosnia-Herzegovina has "special guest" status and the rump Yugoslavia — Serbia and Montenegro — has not been admitted. Russia was ac-

any delay might lead to a delay in the elections in the rest of Bosnia, and that would be a disaster," the Italian foreign minister and president of the Council of Ministers, Susanna Agnelli, said last night.

The ministers were briefed on the tense situation in Mostar by the EU administrator for the city, Pérez Casado. EU governments have repeatedly protested against actions by Croat extremists in Mostar, who are opposed to the unification of the city.

The meeting in Brussels also heard of the problems facing the Bosnia-wide election, due to be held by September 14. "The elections will not be perfect in view of the obstacles being placed in the way of refugees wishing to return home... but it is far better that we have imperfect elections than none at all," one EU diplomat said.

The German foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, flew from Brussels to Belgrade last night to persuade President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia to help turn over to the international court of justice in The Hague Bosnian Serbs accused of war crimes.

## Ministers will work out a detailed plan to monitor Zagreb's civil liberties record

The editor of one Croatian satirical weekly paper faces a three-year prison sentence for "bringing the president into disrepute".

The ministerial committee of the Council of Europe will meet in Strasbourg later this week to work out a detailed plan for monitoring Croatia's record on civil liberties.

When the Croatian government applied for membership it gave 21 undertakings on human rights, including commitments "to pursue the procedure for electing a mayor of

any delay might lead to a delay in the elections in the rest of Bosnia, and that would be a disaster," the Italian foreign minister and president of the Council of Ministers, Susanna Agnelli, said last night.

The ministers were briefed on the tense situation in Mostar by the EU administrator for the city, Pérez Casado. EU governments have repeatedly protested against actions by Croat extremists in Mostar, who are opposed to the unification of the city.

The meeting in Brussels also heard of the problems facing the Bosnia-wide election, due to be held by September 14. "The elections will not be perfect in view of the obstacles being placed in the way of refugees wishing to return home... but it is far better that we have imperfect elections than none at all," one EU diplomat said.

The German foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, flew from Brussels to Belgrade last night to persuade President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia to help turn over to the international court of justice in The Hague Bosnian Serbs accused of war crimes.

# Turkish coalition in slush fund row

Alistair Bell in Ankara

**A**SCANDAL over £4.3 million missing from a secret government slush fund yesterday rocked Turkey's conservative coalition government, already reeling from inighting after a string of corruption charges.

A cabinet member accused the prime minister, Mesut Yilmaz, of trying to discredit his coalition partner, Tansu Ciller, by revealing to the press details of her use of the fund during her recent term as prime minister.

"Only the prime minister or his adviser has access to this kind of secret document. It couldn't have come from a

third person," said Yalim Erez, the trade and industry minister and a close colleague of Mrs Ciller.

Mr Yilmaz has not commented on the allegation.

Turkish newspapers at the weekend gave wide coverage to a leaked document purporting to show that Mrs Ciller had taken £4.3 million from the fund, intended mostly for shadowy security operations, a couple of weeks before she handed over power to Mr Yilmaz in March.

The two conservative leaders have been at loggerheads in recent weeks over Mr Yilmaz's backing for parliamentary inquiries into corruption charges against Mrs Ciller.

An increasingly beleaguered Mrs Ciller has acknowledged delving into the fund, but says interests of national security prevent her from divulging what she did with the money. She suggested it may have gone towards the fight against Kurdish rebels, or security activities involving Turkey's neighbours.

"Look at terrorism. Look around us in Iran, Azerbaijan, Chechnya and Greece," she was quoted by the Turkish press as saying to justify her withdrawal of the cash.

Mrs Ciller's True Path Party has gone to the verge of quitting the coalition twice in as many weeks after Mr Yilmaz's Motherland Party helped the Islamist opposition

to set up two separate corruption inquiries against her.

Mrs Ciller says the charges are an attempt to ruin her hopes of becoming prime minister again next year under a power-sharing deal with Mr Yilmaz.

A security court is to investigate how the press got hold of the slush fund document, which clearly shows Mrs Ciller vouching for the money under "secret service expenditures."

"Giving away state secrets is a crime," said Cevdet Volkan, the chief prosecutor at the Ankara state security court. But he refused to say if the court would investigate claims that Mr Yilmaz was behind the leak. — Reuter.

## World news in brief

### Communist drops out of PM race

**I**NDIA'S veteran communist leader, Jyoti Basu, yesterday bowed out of the contest for the prime ministership. Last night leaders of the National Front-Left Front alliance appealed to him to reconsider. The octogenarian, who has been chief minister of West Bengal for nearly 20 years, had been viewed as the leading candidate of the alliance.

The Communist Party's central committee said in a statement that the party would offer only external support to any government that did not include the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, or the rump of the Congress Party.

The BJP, which emerged as the largest single party after last week's election, has said it wants to form the next government, and several Indian newspapers yesterday condemned as undemocratic efforts to keep it out.

P. V. Narasimha Rao, meanwhile, is gauging support among the left and regional parties for his possible return as prime minister. — Suzanne Goldenberg, New Delhi.

### Soldiers held after road death

**O**FFICIALS of the British military bases in Cyprus said two Austrian United Nations peacekeepers were yesterday detained at the bases for questioning in connection with the apparent hit-and-run death of a Bulgarian farm worker.

Gantchev Kirkov, aged 32, was found dead in the early hours of yesterday near the south-eastern resort town of Ayia Napa. He had been knocked off a bicycle.

"The soldiers are being held by SBA (Sovereign Base Area) police and UN police are in attendance," said a spokesman.

The soldiers, based in the Turkish-occupied town of Famasgusa, were stopped by British officers two hours after the body was found. "The windscreen of their car was smashed and it appeared to have been involved in a car accident," said Stelios Neofytou of the Cyprus police. — Reuter, Nicosia.

### Food crisis worsening fast

**T**HE FOOD crisis in North Korea is deepening faster than expected, the United Nations warned yesterday.

A six-page report by the World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organisation said most of last year's harvest had been consumed. Food stocks were very low in the country, which Japanese officials say has asked informally for food aid.

"All reports from North Korea indicate widespread shortages in large parts of the country," the WFP said, adding that the Pyongyang government had reduced rations sharply.

"The situation is likely to become considerably worse in the lean months between May and September... significant commercial imports are unlikely and there is virtually no further food assistance in the pipeline," the report added. It was made available as envoys from the United States, South Korea and Japan prepared for talks in Rome on plans to bring North Korea out of isolation. — Reuter, Rome.

### Investigators find engines

**A**CCIDENT investigators yesterday found the engines of the DC-9 that plunged into the Florida Everglades on Saturday, killing 109 people, but admitted they had no idea how to go about recovering the rest of the wreckage from the dense, alligator-infested swamp.

As divers groped their way through mud and sawgrass coated with fuel, navy sonar experts joined the hunt for the flight data recorders, which it is hoped will offer a clue to why the aircraft filled with smoke minutes after leaving Miami for Atlanta.

As the first remains of victims were taken to the Dade County medical examiner's office yesterday, the Federal Aviation Authority launched an intensive month-long safety investigation into ValuJet, the cut-price carrier which operated the 27-year-old plane. — Ian Katz, New York.

### Post workers strike over cuts

**A**BOUT 1,000 postal workers staged warning strikes in six German cities yesterday to protest at deep spending cuts proposed by the government.

Delivery of about two million pieces of mail was delayed because of the action in Munich, Stuttgart, Saarbrücken, Heidelberg, Magdeburg and Berlin, union officials said.

As workers took to the streets with banners, talks resumed in Stuttgart on a new contract for 3.2 million public service employees, including postal workers. The government has proposed freezing salaries for two years, and cuts in sick pay and holiday benefits, as part of a DM26 billion squeeze. — AP, Bonn.

### Extradition request refused

**F**RANCE said yesterday it would not extradite a French defence industrialist, Serge Dassault, aged 71, to Belgium over an alleged bribery scandal but would respond to requests from Belgian authorities for information.

"We have signed and we will apply a convention of mutual European judicial assistance," the government spokesman, Alain Lamassouze, said after a cabinet meeting.

A judge in Liege issued an international arrest warrant last week for Mr Dassault, chairman of Dassault Aviation, one of the country's top aircraft makers, in connection with bribes allegedly paid to Belgian government officials in 1989 to win a contract. He has denied any involvement in the affair. — Reuter, Paris.

### New cabinet posts go to ANC

**N**ELSON MANDELA (above, with the Namibian president, Sam Nujoma, who is visiting South Africa yesterday) appointed four members of the African National Congress to fill gaps left by the National Party's withdrawal from the coalition government, writes David Beresford in Johannesburg.

Dr Jordan — whose sacking in a reshuffle last month after he had reportedly clashed with President Mandela on civil rights issues, stunned many in the ANC — gets environmental affairs and tourism. Two of the 27 ministerial posts have been axed, as a signal of the government's commitment to austerity.

The other appointments are Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi (welfare and population development), Mohammed Valli Moosa (provincial affairs and constitutional development) and Pennell Maduna (mineral and energy affairs).



**Rothko stayed less than three days: he did not work in Cornwall and he never went back. His being there is what mattered**  
Adrian Searle visits St Ives

Arts G2 page 8

Handwritten Arabic text: *الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية*









Nnamdi Azikiwe

Odyssey of the new Nigeria

DR NNAMDI AZIKIWE, who has died aged 91, was the father of independent Nigeria. Three things the political opponents of Zik - as he was always known - did not do was doubt his efficacious charm; dispute his claim as herald of Nigerian nationalism; or argue about his political astuteness.

Body. When the lecture was over his listeners poured into the streets, spat on Europeans, beat up Azikiwe's political opponents, and filled the buses and mammy wagons with music.

From 1944, his base was secure as general secretary of the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons and after 1946 he remained its president until 1960.

In 1952, he was member of the Western House of Assembly, resigning in 1954 to become member of the Eastern House of Assembly and premier of the region. Finally, he chaired the Senate of Federation in 1960 and became Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of Nigeria 1960-1963, then the first President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria until 1966.



Understanding the art and science of politics... Nnamdi Azikiwe

a year later negotiating peace terms with General Gowon of Nigeria and recommending repudiation of Ojukwu. Even into his eighties Zik remained politically active.

He remained keenly interested in sport, holding offices such as president of the Lagos Football Association, vice-chairman of the Nigerian Boxing Board of Control, president of the Nigerian Amateur Athletic Association, and a member of the Nigerian Olympic Committee.

Nnamdi (Benjamin) Azikiwe born November 16, 1904; died April 14, 1996

Billy Byers Jazz's constant horn

ALTHOUGH he was never in the forefront as a virtuoso soloist, Billy Byers, who has died aged 69, was a widely-respected musician. He had great natural endowments, and was into his professional career by his early teens.

Joan Thirkettle

Newsmaker and news breaker

TO THE seven million regular viewers of News at Ten, Joan Thirkettle, who has died aged 48, was a familiar figure. She was the reporter standing outside the High Court in the wind and the rain reporting on the progress of the Birmingham Six's appeal.

Scoop... Thirkettle was the first to interview Salman Rushdie after the Iranian fatwa



She went on to work in mainstream journalism on the Daily Mail and then in 1969 as a property and business writer on the Sunday Times. Three years in radio with BBC Radio and British Forces Broadcasting gave her the necessary grounding to become a founding producer of London Broadcasting Company (LBC) in 1973.

single-minded determination. She had a distinctive style of reporting which viewers noticed and remembered. But she was also determined to combine her career with motherhood. She lived with Daisy, 18 and Michael, 15, in Camden Town.

In 23 years of reporting in British television news Joan carved out her own role with professionalism and integrity. She had become part of the fabric of ITN and of British television news.

Stewart Purvis Jon Snow writes: Joan and I were founding operatives of LBC, Britain's first legal commercial radio station. She arrived already a proper journalist and tutored many of us in what we were supposed to do.

Birthdays

- Francesca Annis, actress, 51; Dr Hastings Kamuzu Banda, former president of Malawi, 91; Chay Blyth, yachtsman, 58; Jack Bruce, rock singer, bassist, composer, 63; Alec Dankworth, jazz bassist, 66; Phil Drabble, naturalist and broadcaster, 82; Helen Field, opera singer, 45; Emma Forbes, children's television presenter, 33; Baroness (Sarah) Hogg, economist, former head of the Prime Minister's Policy Unit, 60; Peter Kirsten, cricketer, 41; Geoffrey Lister, chief executive, Bradford and Bingley Building Society, 69; George Lucas, film director and producer, 52; Lord McAlpine, former deputy chairman, Conservative Party, 54; Canon John Oates, rector, St Bride's, Fleet Street, 66; Stan Phillips, actress, 62; Sir Adam Ritchey, executive director, Hamburg, 54; Leslie Sharp, chief constable, Strathclyde, 60; Patricia Turner, GMB trades unionist, 69; Franjo Tudjman, president of Croatia, 74; Adrienne Uzzell-Hamilton, circuit judge, 64; Bob Woolmer, cricket coach, 47.

Death Notices

MEMORIAL service on Thursday 5th May immediately after long illness. Funeral from London Crematorium, Kensal Green, Thursday 10th May at 1.45pm. Donations to St John's Hospice, 1988 St John's Avenue, after 5.30 at Aisa's House.

Jackdaw



THE mid-morning radio news reports an odd outbreak of a respiratory disease on the fringes of London. It rapidly becomes the top news story, first locally then nationally, as more cases show up during the afternoon.

takes time - time they don't have. Rumours are rife that antibiotics have run out. The authorities caution against panic. You know that you and your family have been exposed...

medallion man with the aid of a large, leaking, paint-filled sack hung on a chain round his neck. The farmer can then identify, thanks to a large blob of resultant paint on the rump, which of the ladies has been, er, stepping out with, and those he hasn't taken a shine to.

Western appearance would enhance their appeal to American servicemen. Large doses of the doctored industrial fluids were injected directly into their breasts. To prevent silicone from migrating into the body, the Japanese added cottonseed or olive oil to cause immediate scarring, a way to contain the silicone at the site of the injection.

Eventually, Nevada enacted emergency legislation making silicone injections a felony and California passed a law making silicone breast injections a misdemeanor.

you're smoking, you're acutely present to yourself; you step outside the unconscious forward rush of life. That is why the condemned are allowed a final cigarette.

In preparation for the European Championships, FourFourTwo gave a list of useful interpretations of match slang. Jackdaw picks a few of the best.

ers can be made to work over the Infobahn. Geller's new challenge uses a "live" Internet video image of a spoon inside a see-through safe in his Berkshire home.

Brick work

THROWING food dye at the work that represented the most visible public response. The Bricks were withdrawn.

Sheep shag

I GATHER from a farming friend that in the wonderful world of sheep, the business of procreation is known as tupping. Furthermore, it transpires that, in order to confirm that Mr Frize Ram has indeed had his tuppeness worth with sufficient ladies of the flock, he is first transferred into a sort of woolly

Armageddon

THE mid-morning radio news reports an odd outbreak of a respiratory disease on the fringes of London. It rapidly becomes the top news story, first locally then nationally, as more cases show up during the afternoon.

Silicone history

SILICONE may have found its way into the breasts of women as early as the mid-1940s. In the aftermath of World War II, transformer coolant made of silicone was suddenly disappearing from the docks of Yokohama Harbour in Japan.

Last smokes

AMONG the anxieties best suited to containment by cigarettes is, paradoxically, the fear of dying. What serious smoker hasn't felt the surge of panic at the thought of lung cancer and immediately lighted up to beat the panic down?...

Matched words

TOY of the week: England Scotland. Take an early shower

Cyberspoons

Best of the 14 million to one chance of winning the lottery but still desperate for the cash? Jackdaw finds another method, courtesy of Fortean Times.

Death Notices

MEMORIAL service on Thursday 5th May immediately after long illness. Funeral from London Crematorium, Kensal Green, Thursday 10th May at 1.45pm. Donations to St John's Hospice, 1988 St John's Avenue, after 5.30 at Aisa's House.

Emily Sheffield

Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.





Poker World Championship

Kira Jolliffe reports from Las Vegas where the sharpest card players in creation are pursuing wealth and a world title this week

Forget the lottery, this is \$1m stud

AS VEGAS usually makes it on to the sports pages as a big-time boxing venue, but its place in what might broadly be called sporting life is secured this week by the world championship of poker...



Folding money... Las Vegas casino owner and host Jack Binion presents last year's winner Dan Harrington with a gold bracelet and a green million

When Binion recreated that battle in 1970 with his annual world championship, Moss dominated by winning three times. He stayed on and played in Las Vegas (the city he called "Lost Wages") until his death this year in his eighties.

Preston, Tom McEvoy, Stu "The Kid" Ungar, Johnny Chan, Mansour Matloubi - Britain's 1990 world champion - and the title-holder Dan Harrington, a retired lawyer.

ways in poker, money is both the ammunition you play with and the reason for playing. Apart from the \$1 million, the overall winner also collects a gold bracelet - pure Vegas kitsch but trendy with it - and the warm glow that comes from proving yourself outstandingly well and bright in a competition with a proud history of the wily and bright.

turned over (the "flop" cards); betting; then comes a fourth communal card (the "river" card, since you ask); more betting; then the fifth and final communal card and, yes, yet more betting.

Our British hope will be Mike "The Clock" Cook, who finished 11th last year and earned \$27,680. The authoritarians who have popularised the game in Britain - Anthony Holden with Big Deal, Al Alvarez with The Biggest Game in Town, and David Spenser with Total Poker - will variously be taking part, kibitzing (advising or second-guessing from the sidelines), and languishing in self-pity at home.

A flush licks a pair but nothing beats Texas Hold'em

POKER comes in many forms, usually involving five or seven cards, some of all of which are known only to the individual player, but the basic pecking order among hands is generally the same, writes Chris Curtain.

four of a kind and then the running flush (a straight, five in one suit). The basic game most people would recognise is known as five-card draw poker: each player is dealt five cards face down (which nobody else sees), there is a round of betting on the strength of those initial hands and then unwanted cards are "discarded" for replacements dealt fresh from the deck; and then betting recommences.

sending signals which may or may not be correct via the pattern of your bets or the number of your discards - is the soul of poker. "Stud" poker is where some cards are dealt face up - usually in the middle of the table, so that all players may use them to construct the best possible hand in combination with the cards that have been dealt to them alone, their own "hole" cards.

each player, two face down and one face up. They bet. A communal card is dealt face up and they bet again. Then another (more betting), and another (more betting) before a seventh and final card is dealt face down to each player. Who can make the best five-card hand out of that lot? They bet again.

turned over (the "flop" cards); betting; then comes a fourth communal card (the "river" card, since you ask); more betting; then the fifth and final communal card and, yes, yet more betting.

The romance, though, lies in the thrilling possibility that this week in the City of Lost Wages some unknown and impoverished whizkid will parlay his or her \$230 into a cool million.

Racing Ruznama can turn on style in Oaks trial

ANOTHER round of Classic trials gets underway at York this afternoon when the first day of this important spring meeting stages the Tattersalls Midsford Stakes for three-year-old fillies.

market. She may be best equipped to cope with the underfoot conditions today. Sil Sila seems well suited by some give in the ground and on this afternoon when the first day of this important spring meeting stages the Tattersalls Midsford Stakes for three-year-old fillies.

Fallon may take over Soviet Line

PAT EDDERY could lose the ride on Soviet Line in Saturday's £125,000 Juddmonte Locking Stakes at Newbury to Kieren Fallon. Eddery met trouble in running when short-headed by Gabr on the Michael Stoute-trained gelding in last month's Sandown Mile.

Only 10 were declared for the Group One mile contest at yesterday's acceptance stage: Charrwood Forest, Gabr, Nwaamis, Prince Kieren, Smart Alec, Soviet Line, Spectrum, Autumn Affair, Brief Glimpse and Timarida.

York runners and riders with form

Table listing race details for York, including race numbers, names, and form guides for various horses and riders.

Chepstow National Hunt card

Table listing race details for Chepstow National Hunt, including race numbers, names, and form guides for various horses and riders.

Results

Table listing the results of various races, including race numbers, names of winners, and other race details.

SOUTHWELL

Table listing race details for Southwell, including race numbers, names, and form guides for various horses and riders.

Advertisement for RACELINE, featuring contact information for York and Chepstow, including phone numbers and website details.

Soccer

Stubbs deal under threat from Fifa

Ian Ross
FIFA yesterday insisted that it had the power to scupper the £3.5 million transfer of Alan Stubbs from Bolton Wanderers to Celtic.

This is an important matter. The question of precisely who arranged and negotiated Stubbs's move was raised late last week by an unnamed football agent who, it is believed, formally protested to the Scottish FA.

Wolves' attempt to reach the Premiership is costing £6 million a year. The Molineux club showed a £6.1 million deficit over the 1994-95 season and a similar loss is expected for the campaign just ended.

Charlton slams Hoddle purdah

David Lacey hears a rising chorus of dissent and disbelief

FRANK VENABLES starts his countdown to the European Championship today when the England squad train at Bisham Abbey in preparation for Saturday's friendly against Hungary at Wembley.

turn up at Bisham this morning in the media scrum and he is even more hectic than usual. However, England's needs for the next World Cup should surely override these considerations.

Charlton yesterday honoured Norman Higgs, the chairman of the London Youth FA, as a MasterCard Football Ambassador for his 35 years of service to youth soccer.

Surgery rules out Stan

Collymore's slender hope of making England's squad for the European Championship finals disappeared yesterday.

Collymore's slender hope of making England's squad for the European Championship finals disappeared yesterday. British football's most expensive player will enter hospital for a hernia operation this week.

Cliff Brittle, who was elected chairman of the RFU's 18-man executive committee at a special meeting in January, has been given the go-ahead to take over the day-to-day running of the RFU's business.



Leading player... Rick Parry outside the Lancaster Gate headquarters of the Premier League

More Parry than thrust

Martin Thorpe ends the season with the Premier League's gentry-does-it chief

LIKE everything in life, criticisms can be made of the Premier League. High ticket prices, the steady drift from working-class to middle-class crowds, the loss of the electric atmosphere of the standing generation, players' spiralling wages.

Parry says it is "blindingly obvious" that the supply of, and demand for, top players can be redressed by financing more youth development, thus also steadying transfer fees and decreasing the need to buy foreign.

Parry says it is "blindingly obvious" that the supply of, and demand for, top players can be redressed by financing more youth development, thus also steadying transfer fees and decreasing the need to buy foreign.

Parry says it is "blindingly obvious" that the supply of, and demand for, top players can be redressed by financing more youth development, thus also steadying transfer fees and decreasing the need to buy foreign.

Gullit can still buy big

Martin Thorpe
RUUD GULLIT arrived back in London yesterday to take up his post as Chelsea's player-manager.

Bates said of his decision to tear up the partnership plan: "The negotiations have reached the point where the requirements of neither side could be satisfied.

Bates said of his decision to tear up the partnership plan: "The negotiations have reached the point where the requirements of neither side could be satisfied.

Rugby Union

Junior clubs and counties force Twickenham's hand

GRASSROOTS pressure may force the Rugby Football Union to hold a third special general meeting within six months to determine the future structure of the game.

Cliff Brittle, who was elected chairman of the RFU's 18-man executive committee at a special meeting in January, has been given the go-ahead to take over the day-to-day running of the RFU's business.

Cliff Brittle, who was elected chairman of the RFU's 18-man executive committee at a special meeting in January, has been given the go-ahead to take over the day-to-day running of the RFU's business.

Cliff Brittle, who was elected chairman of the RFU's 18-man executive committee at a special meeting in January, has been given the go-ahead to take over the day-to-day running of the RFU's business.

Rugby League

Oz off route for GB tour

Paul Fitzpatrick

GREAT BRITAIN will play five Tests when they tour at the end of the current Super League season, but it is not yet certain if they will visit Australia.

That could depend on the outcome of the court case on Thursday week when Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation appeals against the decision to outlaw the Australian Super League until the year 2000.

Great Britain, who will depart on September 21, will play Tests against Papua New Guinea and Fiji and three against New Zealand.

Great Britain, who will depart on September 21, will play Tests against Papua New Guinea and Fiji and three against New Zealand.

Great Britain, who will depart on September 21, will play Tests against Papua New Guinea and Fiji and three against New Zealand.

Great Britain, who will depart on September 21, will play Tests against Papua New Guinea and Fiji and three against New Zealand.

Great Britain, who will depart on September 21, will play Tests against Papua New Guinea and Fiji and three against New Zealand.

Great Britain, who will depart on September 21, will play Tests against Papua New Guinea and Fiji and three against New Zealand.

Great Britain, who will depart on September 21, will play Tests against Papua New Guinea and Fiji and three against New Zealand.

Great Britain, who will depart on September 21, will play Tests against Papua New Guinea and Fiji and three against New Zealand.

Great Britain, who will depart on September 21, will play Tests against Papua New Guinea and Fiji and three against New Zealand.

Great Britain, who will depart on September 21, will play Tests against Papua New Guinea and Fiji and three against New Zealand.

Team talk
The Independent News and Reports Service
Call 0891 33 77+

Wales recall striking pair

BOBBY GOULD has recalled several of Wales's senior players, among them the strikers Mark Hughes and Dean Saunders, for the opening World Cup qualifier in San Marino on June 2.

Results

Soccer

First Division: Charlton 1, Watford 1.
Second Division: Reading 1, Luton 1.
Third Division: Exeter 1, Shrewsbury 1.

Baseball

NATIONAL LEAGUE Florida 7, Colorado 5.
Montreal 7, Houston 6.
American League New York Yankees 7, Toronto 6.

Basketball

NBA Chicago Bulls 91, Detroit Pistons 81.
Miami Heat 101, Orlando Magic 94.
Seattle SuperSonics 101, Portland Trail Blazers 91.

Evening Racing

TOURCOASTER
2.50 (1st) 1.10, 2.10, 3.10, 4.10, 5.10, 6.10, 7.10, 8.10, 9.10, 10.10, 11.10, 12.10, 13.10, 14.10, 15.10, 16.10, 17.10, 18.10, 19.10, 20.10, 21.10, 22.10, 23.10, 24.10, 25.10, 26.10, 27.10, 28.10, 29.10, 30.10.

Cricket

Benson & Hedges Cup
Derbyshire 31, Middlesex 40.
Durham 32, Northants 41.
Essex 33, Nottingham 42.

Rugby Union

Wales 14, Scotland 10.
England 14, Ireland 10.

Rugby League

Wigan 14, Leeds 10.
Salford 14, Huddersfield 10.

Sport
Guardian

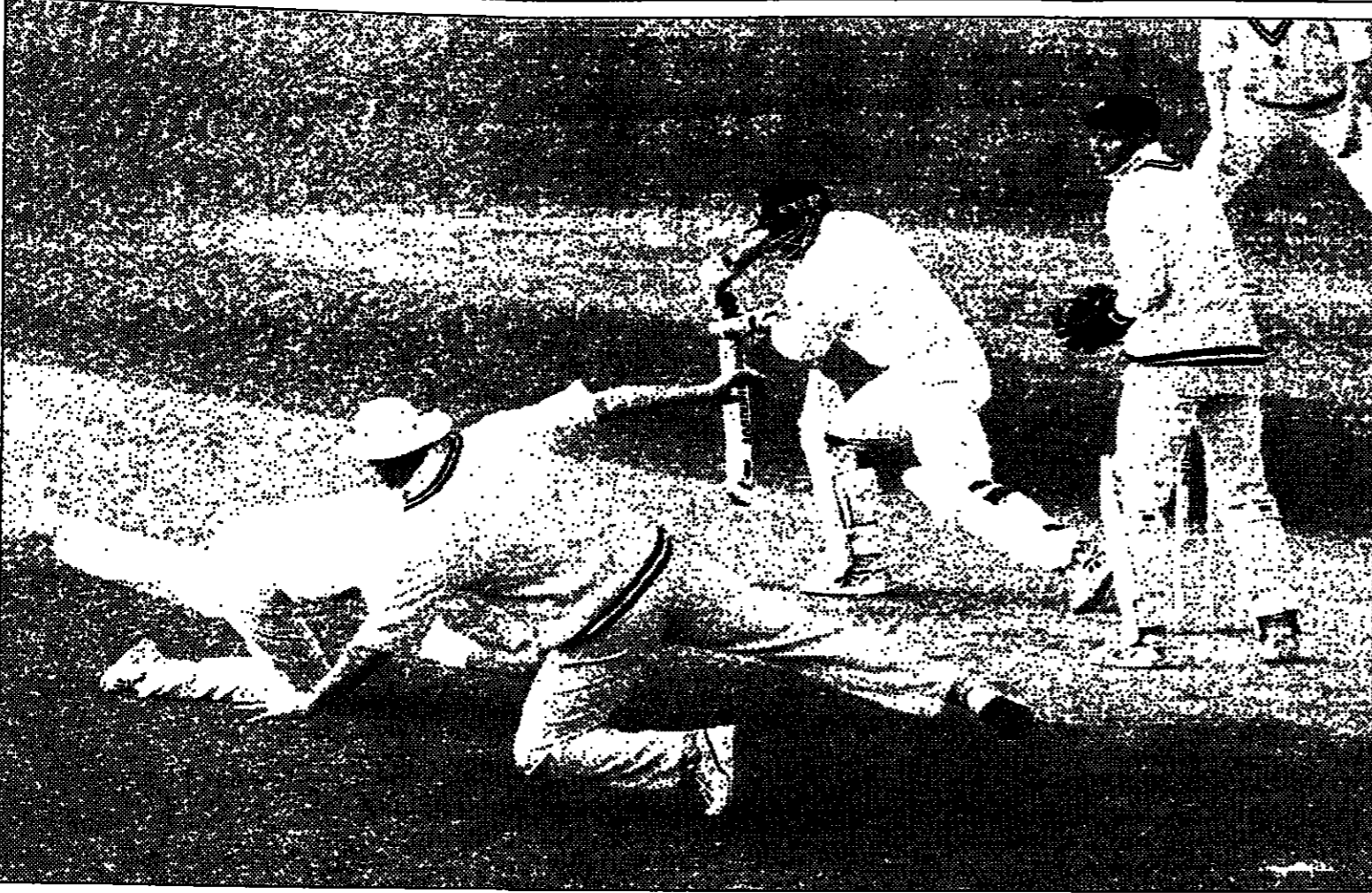
Sport
Guardian

Sport
Guardian

Sport
Guardian

الرياض 14 مايو 1996

Rugby League  
Oz off route for GB tour



Out of reach... Surrey's Mark Butcher fights a rearguard action at The Oval yesterday. Kent had reached 361, leaving the home team to score 227 for victory. Surrey finished on 160 for six, Martin McCague's spell of three wickets from 11 balls having put them on the back foot. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

County Championship: Yorkshire v Derbyshire

White finds his old fire

David Hopps at Sheffield

GRAIG WHITE has withstood more jibes than most for England's recent inadequacies but those who dismiss him as a figurehead of Raymond Illingworth's imagination might have had cause for a hasty reassessment had they witnessed him almost bowl Yorkshire to an unlikely victory.

encouraging pace and bounce White took four for three in 11 balls to leave Derbyshire's ninth-wicket pair, Aldred and Vandrau, blocking the last seven overs for a draw.

Derbyshire, driven by Adams's belligerent 66 from 36 balls, had developed the impetus which suggested another 87 from the last 12 overs was a distinct possibility. But Adams fell to a brilliant low catch by Silverwood, and Krikken ran himself out next ball, risking a single to backward point, where Bevan pounced to hit a single stump at speed.

Tour match: Gloucestershire v Indians

Dinkum Symonds says a little at last

David Foot at Bristol

THERE was an unusual, virtually spontaneous ceremonial within the press box during mid-afternoon and it is worth recording. We lined up to applaud a young Indian journalist on his return.

155 behind on first innings and then the Indians in turn declared at lunch on 144 for six. Sourav Ganguly was 64 not out, with 11 fours and a six to his credit. The depleted county attack had looked a modest one.

County Championship: Lancashire v Leicestershire

Millns and Nixon stand firm

Andy Wilson at Old Trafford

IT TOOK Leicestershire exactly an hour to kill off the final day of this game by scoring the 38 runs required at the start to avoid the follow-on. That represented quite an achievement by their eighth-wicket pair of Paul Nixon and David Millns, who had come together on Saturday afternoon, needing 161 for safety.

only players to reach three figures in the match. No amount of contrivance could manufacture a result with less than five hours remaining on a blameless Old Trafford pitch, but Leicestershire's left-arm spinner Matthew Embury emerged from the ensuing tedium with the notable scalps of Atherton, Gallian and Crawley, the latter two for half-centuries, all three clean bowled.

and there was scant indication then that it would produce 1,200 runs and only 23 wickets. Yesterday the surface retained its initial bounce and there was also a hint of turn for Embury, so Northants ought to have done better, learning by the day as a championship cricketer. It is unlikely he will be in the one-day squad announced on Sunday but recognition cannot be far away.

County Championship: Northampton v Glamorgan

Dale's dozenth does it for Welsh

Mike Selvey at Northampton

WITH only two wins here in 30 years, Wantage Road had not been Glamorgan's happiest hunting ground. They made amends yesterday, however, a partnership of 117 in 22 overs between Adrian Dale and Tony Cottet setting up a five-wicket victory after the Welsh side had been set a generous target of 379.

Yet if the home attack was generally lacklustre yesterday, Dale and Cottet still played exceptionally well after James Morris and, crucially it seemed, Maynard had been dismissed. Dale faced 108 balls and hit 13 fours and Cottet managed five fours in his 77-ball innings.

County Championship: Durham hit new low as Follett takes eight wickets

David Davies

DAVID FOLLETT, the Middlesex pace bowler, yesterday demolished Durham for 67, their lowest championship total, to clinch a 306-run victory at Lord's, writes Don Best.

their only double-figure score. Ronnie Irani struck a match-winning 81 not out as Essex beat Hampshire by four wickets at Southampton. Essex, needing 329 from 69 overs to win, had stumbled to 168 for four before he joined Paul Frithard (68) in putting on 112. Hampshire, who started

the day 242 ahead on 135 for seven, lost their last three wickets to Paul Grayson, whose four for 82 was his best first-class performance. Desmond Haynes, Sussex's coach, locked the players in the dressing room at Hove after they had lost to Warwickshire by an innings and 139 runs.

County Championship: Gloucestershire v Indians

Scoreboard

Table with 2 columns: Team and Score. Includes entries for Lancashire v Leicestershire, Northampton v Glamorgan, and Surrey v Kent.

Tennis

Beaten Rusedski turns to Teacher

Stephen Marley in Rome

REG RUSEDSKI, hustled out of the first round of the Italian Open yesterday by the No. 2 seed Goran Ivanisevic, will team up with a new coach, Brian Teacher, this week in an attempt to lift himself up the world rankings and regain his place as Britain's No. 1, recently taken by Tim Henman.

ing well since reaching the final of the Key Biscayne tournament against Agassi in March, where he withdrew after three sets with a neck problem. His frustration erupted here in the first game of the second set when he twice hurled his racket to the ground, then propelled it into the cooler box by the umpire's chair. An official warning followed.

ash; here on clay, rallies went into double figures. Rusedski, frequently employing a deep safety backhand, certainly forced the Croatian's hand. "It was tough to pass him," Ivanisevic admitted. "It is difficult to play guys like this when there is no real rhythm to a match."

Boxing

Battle for Lewis fight

Don Best

DON KING's plans to stage a world heavyweight title fight between Mike Tyson and Britain's Lennox Lewis are threatened by competition from Seth Abraham, who heads the American cable network Home Box Office.

haired promoter and keep it in the family, as Lewis is contracted to HBO. The plan involves HBO, cable stations in Britain, delayed terrestrial TV coverage and a closed-circuit operation.

Much depends on an appeal in New Jersey Supreme Court in which Tyson is seeking to overturn a lower court judgment prohibiting him from defending against any contender other than Lewis and preventing him fighting for any other version of the title.

Sport and Television

BBC fights back with bumper package

Andrew Cuff Media Correspondent

PLEA by the BBC's head of sport for additional funds to compete with the Rupert Murdoch's channel-plus has been approved by the corporation's senior executives.

secure long-term contracts for the Olympic Games until 2008, the Commonwealth Games in 1998, the Open golf championship and world athletics championships until 2001, and soccer's 1998 World Cup and 2000 European championship.

This summer the BBC will screen 300 hours of coverage from the Olympic Games in Atlanta and 50 hours of the Euro 96 championship.

Sport in brief

Table Tennis

Table Tennis

Table Tennis

Table Tennis

Table Tennis

Table Tennis

Table Tennis

Table Tennis

Table Tennis

Table Tennis

Table Tennis

Table Tennis

Table Tennis

Table Tennis

Table Tennis

Table Tennis

Table Tennis

Table Tennis

Table Tennis

EURO 96 FOOTLINE 099 099 1996 FOOTBALL FOR THE HOME

Cricket 0891 2258

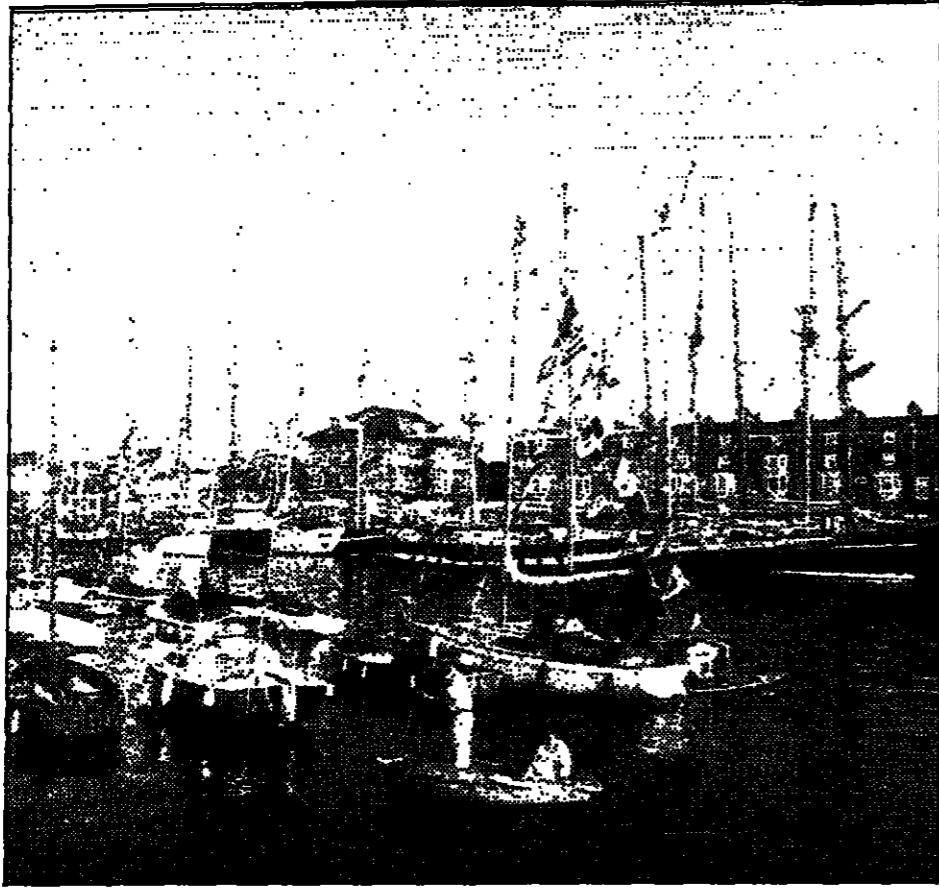
Sp 11

The biggest deal of them all, page 13  
Fifa probes Stubbs transfer, page 14

Rusedski meets his early match, page 15  
Giants battle over Lewis fight, page 15

# SportsGuardian

## CAN WEYMOUTH GATECRASH YACHTING'S MOST EXCLUSIVE PARTY?



San Diego... bulging with the action of last year's America's Cup GUY GURNEY

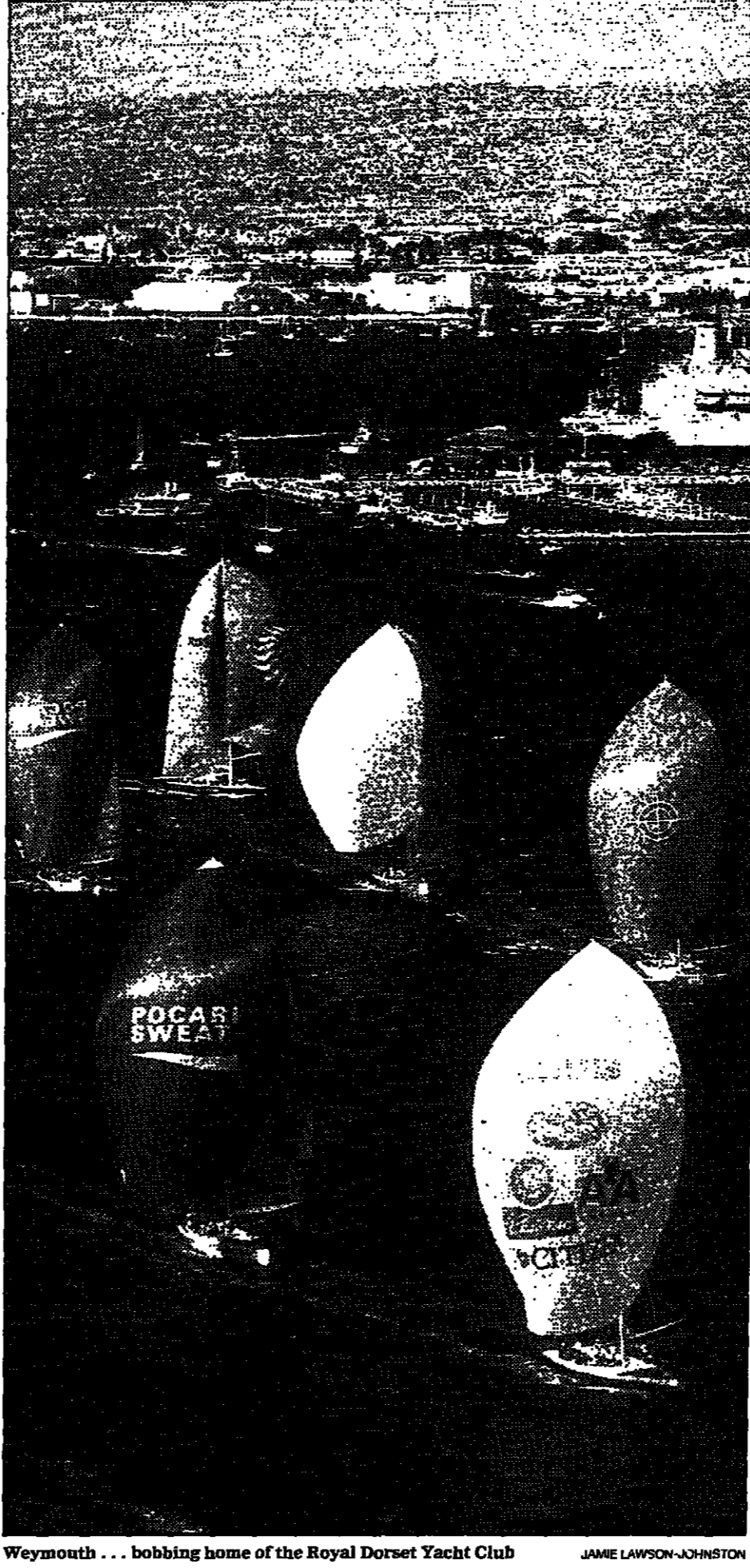
John Duncan and Bob Fisher report on an unlikely south coast challenge for the America's Cup and the mystery over its backers

## Dorset gripped by cup fever

THE Royal Dorset Yacht Club has launched an audacious campaign to snatch the America's Cup from New Zealand and bring the most expensive prize in sport to the shelves of the former Spinaker Restaurant in Weymouth.

The 121-year-old club this week dispatched to New Zealand the required \$100,000 cheque to get into the race, where it will face competition, and not a few snarls, from other contenders. Its courier was Sir Peter Blake, the Kiwi who won the cup a year ago but has a home here.

At present the contenders include San Francisco (Paul Cayard), St Thomas in the Virgin Islands (Peter Holmberg) and the New York Yacht Club, which held the cup for 132 years to 1993. Other challenges have come from Spain, Japan and France.



Weymouth... bobbing home of the Royal Dorset Yacht Club JAMIE LAWSON-JOHNSTON

## Wigan shatter 100 years of attitude



Richard Williams

LESS than a week ago rugby people were nudging one another and saying what a hoot it would be if Wigan made a decent showing in the Middlesex Sevens. They couldn't win the thing, of course. But the rugby league champions would be good enough to give the boys a bit of a fright, even if they didn't quite get the hang of it.

By the morning of the tournament, thanks to the cataclysmic events at Maine Road on Wednesday, Wigan were suddenly odds on to win the Twickenham showpiece.

One lesson the world has learnt in the last decade is that the established order can change just about overnight. One minute communism has been there for as long as anyone can remember; the next thing you know, they're trucking Lenin's statue to the tip on the outskirts of town and putting a McDonald's sign on the People's Palace. A year ago, who would have put the price of a beer on an end to the hundred years' war between the rugby codes?

Earlier in the week. But on the way to claiming the title, Wigan dismissed Richmond, Harlequins, Leicester and Wasps, historically four of the English union's biggest clubs. Yet only one current England player, Lawrence Dallaglio, turned up to face the invaders during the course of the afternoon. He at least, having led Wasps' wholehearted attempt to repel the invaders, could look at himself in the bathroom mirror on Sunday morning without a guilty conscience.

It was, we were informed, the end of a long and tiring season for the union clubs. Tell that to Wigan. This time last year they had just finished winning all four trophies available to them in the last of the old-fashioned league seasons. After that they took part in the abbreviated 20-game Centenary Championship from August to January — interrupted in October by the World Cup games, to which they contributed 16 players — before starting again in March with the new Super League programme, in which they have so far played six matches. And yet at Maine Road their athleticism and alertness set standards that rugby union will take years to achieve.

THE trouble with the 15-man code in the British Isles is that it is a great game generally played to a very poor standard. Until this year the level of unforced errors, tactical indiscipline and a general inability to observe the rules, even in Five Nations matches, could be legitimately excused as a reflection of its amateur status. No longer. Exposure to southern hemisphere standards in the World Cup has lifted the spectators' expectations; proper payment of the players will improve the spectacle by enabling skills and fitness to be improved, with the league players as examples.

## Back ban angers Tigers

Robert Armstrong on the six-month suspension of Leicester's England flanker

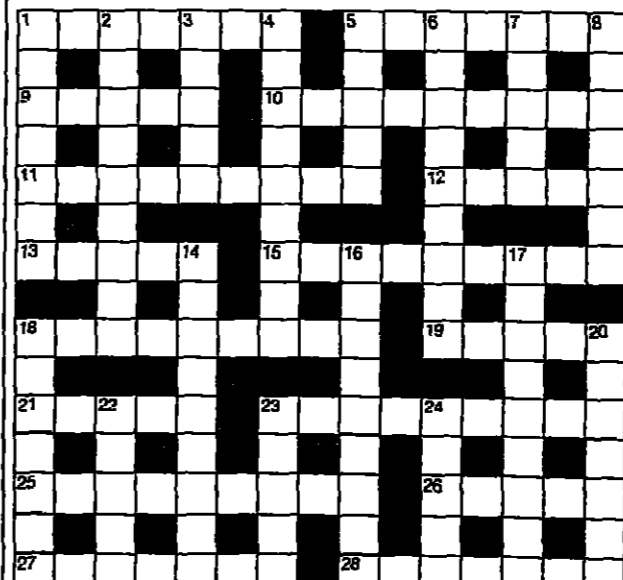
LEICESTER are poised to challenge the six-month suspension the Rugby Football Union has imposed on Neil Back for pushing the referee Steve Lander at the end of the Pilkington Cup final on May 4.

The beaten finalists, who lost to Bath 16-15 at Twickenham, yesterday issued a statement on behalf of Back in which they said they "were disappointed at the severity of the sentence". If the appeal goes ahead, it will almost certainly hinge on the panel's acceptance of Back's explanation that he thought he was pushing Bath's Andy Robinson and not the referee.

sex), Peter Trunkfield (Nottinghamshire) and Bob Taylor (National Clubs Association), made up the disciplinary panel, which considered video analysis which showed that Back had pushed the referee.

## Guardian Crossword No 20,652

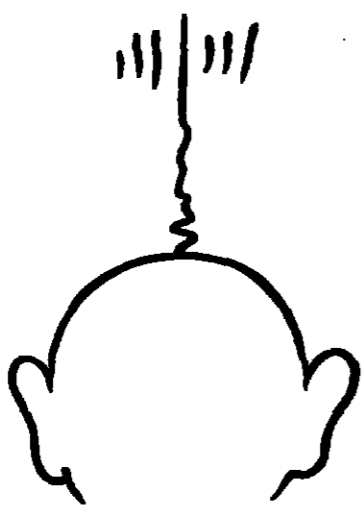
Set by Janus



- Across
1 Is in agreement at weddings (7)
5 He wrote to monarch about lip-service (7)
9 He entered the ring with some empty sonnetising (5)
10 Able to play on one sort of old instrument? (9)
11 Where in church to find lines by John (9)
12 Perfect fish to a beginner (5)
13 Chooses politician in jet-set (5)
15 Having striking effect on child in play perhaps (9)
18 The German campanologist's arm (9)
19 Refused to leave work-material (5)
21 Fabric evoking some reaction in onlooker (5)
23 Getting rid of scrimmaging (9)

- Down
25 Route used by baggage-carriers? (5,4)
26 Net used in river (5)
27 Forsakes barren tracts (7)
28 Wanders round and gets commissions (7)
Down
1 List of churchwomen liable to change (7)
2 List of questions for journal on trial (4,5)
3 Language rich in dialectical choice (5)
4 Not much fish of a measured size (9)
5 Money subscribed for young animal (5)
6 Nothing against royal persons going round country districts (9)
7 One wise man's appearance (5)

## MORSE



Just announced. Sun's new 'Enterprise' range of servers. Desktop to mainframe-class scalability. With reliability, network performance, storage capability and sheer speed that will make your hair stand on end. Call for our 1-page executive summary.



Morse Computers 0181 232 8686

Learned feminist scholars have said that I must have a small penis, or that I must be impotent, that I must have trouble getting a woman or that I must hate women. Such are the refinements of argument in the gender debate. Neil Lyndon

page 12

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.